

HAS ANYONE SEEN MY LLAMAS?
Matthew Parris
PAGE 16

ROUND-THE-WORLD CHALLENGE
Robin Knox-Johnston
on Tracey Edwards's
all-women team
PAGE 23

TRAVEL SPECIAL
ADVENTURES IN WONDERLANDS
MAGAZINE
SATURDAY IN THE TIMES
WILL SELF ON HEALTH
WEEKEND

Revenge was motive for pub attack

Ulster killing will go on, say gunmen

BY AUDREY MAGER AND MARTIN FLETCHER

THE breakaway Loyalist Volunteer Force last night claimed responsibility for the New Year's Eve machinegun attack on a Catholic pub in North Belfast and warned: "This is not the end."

The LVF said the attack, which killed one man and left five others injured, was further revenge for the murder of Billy Wright, its leader, by the Irish National Liberation Army in the Maze prison last Saturday. Within hours of that murder it had shot dead a former republican prisoner at a hotel in Dungannon, Co Tyrone.

The LVF, which rejects the ceasefire, said the attack was carried out by an active service unit of its "West Belfast brigade" in retaliation for the death of a "true loyalist".

Perversely, the LVF's statement offered some hope for Northern Ireland's peace process as it helped to quell growing fears that Wednesday night's attack was the work of one of the big loyalist paramilitary organisations which are signed up to the Stormont peace talks. That would have wrecked both the ceasefire and the talks.

Northern Ireland remained extremely tense, however, and Ronnie Flanagan, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, said the tensions following the province's third terrorist killing in five days meant there was a "real risk" of the main terrorist organisations being sucked back into conflict.

Neither Mr Flanagan, nor

Billy Hutchinson, a leading member of the loyalist Progressive Unionist Party, would rule out the possibility that the LVF had received help from one of the main paramilitary organisations represented at the talks.

Politicians from across the spectrum expressed dismay and despair at the blatantly sectarian attack. Robin Eames, Primate of the Protestant Church of Ireland, warned that the province was "at the beginning of a very dark and dangerous period".

Mr Hutchinson said he did not believe the LVF had enough support in that area of North Belfast to have carried out the attack by itself.

"If it was one of the mainstream organisations, then the killing process that we have at the moment will be completely collapsed," he said. "There's no way the peace process can take a murder which would come from any of the organisations represented at the talks."

The gunmen's white Vauxhall Senator car was stolen at gunpoint from near the Shankill Road, said later abandoned in the same area. That is a UDA and LVF stronghold where the LVF, based in mid-Ulster, has little or no presence. Both the Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Volunteer Force have been bitterly criticising the talks process, which they consider biased towards republicans.

Gerry Kelly, a member of Sinn Féin's Stormont negotiating team, said the "abominable and appalling attack" on innocent Catholics had "shat-

tered" the peace process. John Hume, leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, called the attack an "appalling attempt at mass murder" and said those determined to destroy the peace process must not be allowed to succeed.

Two masked gunmen armed with a machinegun and a handgun attacked the Clifton Tavern, crowded with revellers preparing to see in the New Year. Edmund Treanor, 31, died of head injuries just before midnight and one of the five injured remained in serious condition in hospital last night.

The daughter of one of the victims of the pub shooting yesterday told how her brother, trained in first aid, went to assistance of the victims only to discover their father wounded on the pub floor.

"Tim went down to help when he heard the shooting," said Maria Murphy. "He was helping somebody at the front of the pub when a policeman asked him to go inside to help another man. He went in and saw it was daddy."

Timothy Murphy, 56, was shot in the arm and stomach. He underwent 90 minutes of surgery on Wednesday night to remove a section of his colon. He was a regular at the pub, unlike Mr Treanor, who went to be with his girlfriend who lives in the area.

"He was just an ordinary young man going out for a quiet drink," she said. "He was not political or anything."

Paul Bew, page 2
Leading article, page 17



Michael Kennedy: crashed into tree while playing touch football with his family

Kennedys mourn again as Bobby's son is killed

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE Kennedy family are mourning another loss after the son of the late Senator Robert Kennedy died in a skiing accident in Colorado.

Michael, LeMoyné Kennedy, 39, died on New Year's Eve after crashing into a tree while skiing with his family in Aspen.

Mr Kennedy was playing a ski version of "touch football" at the time of the accident. According to witnesses, he careered head-first into a birch tree while receiving a pass thrown to him.

Courtney Hay, a New Yorker who was skiing near by, said: "Michael went out for a pass, caught the ball and rammed face first into a tree."

Mr Kennedy was among a group of 15 people, including his children Michael Jr, 14, Kyle, 13, and Rory, 10, who were making a last run down the Copper Bowl slope on Aspen Mountain at 4pm. His older brother, Robert Jr, younger brother, Maxwell, and younger sister, Rory, were also there, and it was with them that he was playing the game, using a snow-packed water bottle as a ball.

According to the Aspen Ski Company, the weather was clear, but the trail was covered in evening shadows. Minutes before his fatal smash, Mr Kennedy had crashed through a plastic "slow" sign, which he had failed to pick out in the poor light.

Mr Kennedy, an expert skier, suffered massive head injuries. As his children panicked, screaming: "My father, it's my father!", his sister rushed to him and tried to give him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Ms Hay said: "Rory beat his chest. She said 'One, two,

three, four' then gave him another breath, mouth-to-mouth. Rory was spitting out blood on the snow. Her face was covered with blood." At this point, the family members fell to their knees in the snow and began to pray.

According to Ms Hay's account, Rory, 29, then said: "Michael, we know you can hear us. Stay with us. Help is coming. We're here. You're going to be all right." Then she cried out loud: "He's not breathing! He's not breathing! There's no pulse."

The ski patrol, which had been summoned by Robert Jr seconds after his brother's accident, arrived about three minutes later. The eight paramedics used an artificial respirator before wrapping Mr Kennedy in a blanket.

As the patrol members prepared to take him away, Rory drew his children to her and said: "Let's pray for daddy."

Mr Kennedy was then taken to the base of the mountain and then by ambulance to the Aspen Valley Hospital. He died at 5.50pm.

Ginny Dwyne, a hospital official, said that doctors in the accident and emergency department made "heroic efforts" to revive Mr Kennedy. His mother, Ethel, and other members of the family, were at his bedside when he died.

Aspen's Roman Catholic priest, Father Lawrence Solan, spoke of how he arrived at the Aspen Valley Hospital to give Mr Kennedy the last rites.

"Bobby, Max and Ethel were there with a number of children. It was a terrible, tragic scene: there were a lot of tears and a deep sadness. I counselled them and his priest. I have been in this parish seven years and I know

Continued on page 3, col 1

Balloon lift-off for millionaire

An American millionaire has begun his third attempt to become the first person to fly non-stop around the world in a hot-air balloon.

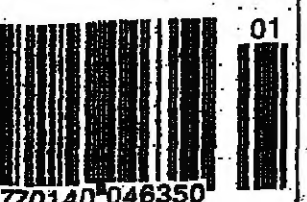
Steve Fossett, lifted off from the Busch Stadium in St Louis, Missouri. He is hoping to reach Portugal tomorrow. Page 13

Betting takeover

Coral, the betting shops business founded by Joe Coral in 1926, may disappear from the high street after Ladbrokes Group confirmed that it is to buy the chain from Bets from £375.5 million. Page 40

TV & RADIO	38, 39
WEATHER	20
CROSSWORDS	38, 40
LETTERS	37
OBITUARIES	39
MATTHEW PARRIS	36
ARTS	32, 33
CHESS & BRIDGE	24
COURT & SOCIAL	38
BUSINESS	38, 39, 40
MEDIA	30, 31
LAW REPORT	34

Buying The Times overseas:
Australia \$10.00; Belgium \$10.00; Canada \$11.00; Denmark 18.00; France 16.00; Germany 12.00; Greece 12.00; Hong Kong 12.00; India 12.00; Italy 12.00; Japan 12.00; Korea 12.00; Malaysia 12.00; Mexico 12.00; New Zealand 12.00; Norway 12.00; Portugal 12.00; Singapore 12.00; South Africa 12.00; Spain 12.00; Sweden 12.00; Switzerland 12.00; Taiwan 12.00; Thailand 12.00; USA \$15.00.



Foreign Office used MI6 to spy on Euro-partners

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S relations with the European Union may deteriorate further with the disclosure this weekend that successive Foreign Secretaries have used MI6 to spy on our European partners.

Confirmation of the widely held suspicion that Britain's intelligence network has been eavesdropping on Brussels, Paris and Bonn, comes only days after Tony Blair took over the presidency of the EU. Lord Owen, the last Labour Foreign Secretary, has admitted that MI6 had provided intelligence material before key negotiations in Europe. He is not alone. Lord Hurd of Westwell, Foreign Secretary under Margaret Thatcher and John Major, also admitted as much. Robin Cook, the incumbent, pointedly refused to deny it.

They are all interviewed in a 60-minute documentary

How To Be Foreign Secretary by Michael Cockerell, to be broadcast on BBC2 on Sunday. The programme follows Mr Cook from his first day in office and as he criss-crossed the globe.

But it was the potentially explosive revelations about the



Lord Owen: regret over spying on EU partners

role of MI6, the secret intelligence service which sends spies around the world under the cloak of diplomatic cover, which will cause the most reverberations. GCHQ, the worldwide eavesdropping network in Cheltenham which listens in on Britain's enemies, has a role closer to home.

Lord Hurd, Foreign Secretary from 1989 to 1995, said: "Intelligence reports on some occasions are valuable and on some occasions crucial. They supply some missing pieces in the jigsaw of other people's intentions which you want to know." But it was not clear until yesterday that successive Foreign Secretaries have gone to meetings in Europe armed with secret data about their partners' negotiating stance.

Lord Owen, asked if he had made use of MI6 when he was Foreign Secretary, said: "A

Continued on page 2, col 5

Beat fees by starting early, students told

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

NEW universities are trying to stave off a shortfall of admissions next autumn by tempting students to enrol this month and next to beat the introduction of £1,000 tuition fees.

They have acted after early signs that the 6 per cent fall in applications for courses next year will hit former polytechnics harder than traditional universities.

De Montfort University in Leicester, one of the largest new universities has launched an advertising campaign to recruit students on a range of courses using the slogan: "Start in February and avoid the fees".

The University of Central England in Birmingham has already said it would waive the fees for all students starting engineering courses next autumn. But, aware that the loss of the grant could doubly deter students, it has also

stepped up its recruitment campaign by offering degree programmes in January.

De Montfort will take students on humanities, agriculture, applied science, computing, business, applied arts and engineering courses. They will have to join the second semester of courses which started in October and catch up on any vital material in their spare time.

But Marianne Harris-Bridge, director of marketing at De Montfort, said dozens of potential students had shown interest. She guaranteed that students would not have to pay the £1,000 means-tested fee which will be charged for new students in October.

David Warner, pro vice-chancellor of the University of Central England, said he was hoping to recruit up to 50 students this January. The courses available were in the engineering department.

Oil tanker is swept on to rocks in storms

BY MICHAEL HORNSWELL

MARINE rescue services were last night forced to postpone until today efforts to reach 29 crew stranded on a 22,637-ton oil tanker, which coastguards said was hard aground on Thatcher Rock, near Torquay, in atrocious conditions.

Three hours after hitting the rock in winds of over 70mph, the Santa Anna was said to be leaning starboard side up. The vessel was holed and lost power after its propellers hit the rock. Engineers were put on

board to pump 250 tons of fuel oil from ruptured tanks to more secure tanks to prevent a serious spillage. One rescue vessel secured the bow to hold her when the tide fell.

Mark Clark, a Coastguard spokesman, said: "There is little more we can do until morning after the tugs have arrived but we are keeping a close watch."

Coastguard teams from Brixham and Berry Head went to the shore line to provide lighting and assistance. But as hundreds of people gathered on the shore to watch the drama, one man

was injured when a metal top blew off a Coastguard rescue trailer in the high winds and knocked him unconscious.

The emergency came as winds gusting up to 76 mph hit the South West and west coast of Scotland, with more than an inch of rain on the Cornish moor. The weather was easing overnight as the band swept eastwards, but a warning of renewed storms was issued.

In the Atlantic a listing cargo ship was battling through storms to be escorted by a salvage tug on the final stages of her voyage, coast-

guards said. The tug Anglian Prince is heading from the Western Approaches for a rendezvous with the 13,000-ton Oak, currently around 340 miles west of Fastnet.

The Bahamian registered Oak, en route for Liverpool from Canada in deteriorating weather, was battling 60mph winds and "very rough seas", said Falmouth coastguards. A Royal Navy Duke Class type 23 frigate HMS Norfolk was standing by in Plymouth, Devon.

The alert began when the vessel developed a 40 degree list 800 miles out, but that was



reduced to around nine degrees after the crew jettisoned some of the shifting deck cargo. Coastguards said some

Continued on page 2, col 4

PINK
Thomas Pink, Jermyn Street
LONDON

Thomas Pink Shirts

Sale Now On

St. James' 85 Jermyn St, SW1

Mayfair 18 Davies St, W1

Liverpool St 16 Blomfield St, EC2

Lloyd's of London 16 Cullum St, EC3

Mansion House 44 Bow Lane, EC4

Cannon St 60 Cannon St, EC4

Law Courts 82 Chancery Lane, WC2

Chelsea Drayton Gardens, SW10

Oxford St Selfridges

Canary Wharf Cabot Place East

Edinburgh 32 Castle St

Glasgow 1 Royal Bank Place

Dublin 29 Dawson St

Sale does not apply to Mail Order. For a copy of our new Spring Catalogue, please telephone 0171-498 3882

Rising tide of violence forces Ulster leaders to sink or swim

RENEWED sectarian violence has pushed the Northern Ireland peace process perilously close to a poisonous disintegration. There is only one possible antidote — the rapid acceleration of the multi-party talks process to the point where the broad lines of a settlement tolerable to majorities in both communities is visible.

That work has to be completed by February: the formal talks deadline of May has been overtaken by a new deadline imposed by the brutality on the streets.

At the heart of the current crisis is the growing alienation of the Protestant community, exacerbated in some quarters by widespread conspiracy theories about the murder of Billy Wright in the Maze prison. The British and Irish Governments are attempt-



Every effort must be made on all sides to ensure the continuation of the peace talks on January 12. And this time the process must be made to work, argues Paul Bew

ing to offer the Provos an honourable way out of the conflict — not substantive victory — but most every concession along this route is a down-payment on Irish unity. There is a bitter irony here: both Governments, precisely because they are so wedded to the principle of consent — which is the decisive protection of the interests of the Unionist community — tend not to have sufficient empathy

with the fearfulness and uncertainty in that community generated by 28 years of the Troubles. Unionists increasingly perceive the peace process as a miserable and unrewarding experience. In fact, some progress has been made in recent months in areas of concern to Unionists such as the Council of the British Isles concept and the removal of the Irish territorial claim. But, at this moment, David Trimble, the Ul-

ster Unionist leader, should be given all the technical assistance necessary to allow him to formulate a realistic cross-border programme of co-operation that would, in turn, allow the SDLP and the Irish Government to sanction a Northern assembly. This is the key to any possible substantive breakthrough.

In early December, the Irish Government gave the distinct impression that it wanted to delay the moment of decision — on such matters as the Northern Ireland assembly — to protect Gerry Adams' leadership of Sinn Féin. Such calculations, while reflecting understandable fears about the balance of forces within republicanism, are now redundant: those republicans opposed to a non-violent strategy are now being

handed opportunities by Loyalist terrorists.

Anyway, at some moment the republican leadership has to choose whether or not to oppose by violence a settlement that will inevitably be based on the principle of consent. So rapid is the deterioration on the ground — signalled by a remark yesterday of Gerry Kelly, a senior Sinn Féin negotiator, that the peace process was "shattered" — that there is nothing to be gained by delaying any further that moment.

It is only when both communities can see that their core interests will be protected that stability will be achieved. The production of such an agreement is indeed a tall order. But it was done in broad theoretical outline with the Downing Street Declaration of

1993: a similarly intensive effort — involving this time the leadership of the principle local parties — is now required.

For many of the older politicians at these talks, this is the last opportunity to bequeath the legacy of a society which can live without fear of random political violence. But to do that, those politicians will have to take risks they have never taken before.

Both John Hume and Mr Trimble can surely by now see in their minds' eyes an acceptable compromise, though they may have their doubts how to sell it to their supporters. Unionists have a tendency to be far too pessimistic about their political future. Mr Trimble may gamble that such a pessimism will turn to relief if a decent package is unveiled.

Northern nationalists, on the other hand, as John Briston, the former Irish Prime Minister, has authoritatively pointed out, have exaggeratedly optimistic expectations, and it will require all Mr Hume's undoubted ability to point out the decided advantages of the settlement for them. Great difficulties lie ahead — but the alternative is passively to accept the dictates of sectarian killers. The worrying feature of the new outbreak of sectarian violence is that it may inspire a sense of defeat and despair among some of those politicians who are central in any hope of success in this endeavour.

□ Paul Bew is Professor of Irish Politics at Queen's University, Belfast.

Labour rebels in Euro switch are urged to quit

By NICHOLAS WAIT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO rebel Labour MEPs have intensified their battle by making a tactical switch to the Green Group in the European Parliament. The Labour leadership yesterday released details of the move by Ken Coates and Hugh Kerr — which stops just short of a full defection — in an attempt to force them to leave the party altogether.

A senior Labour source called on the rebels to "do the honourable thing" and quit, adding: "Frankly, we will be glad to see the back of them. They have consigned themselves to the political wilderness."

Mr Coates, the MEP for Nottingham North and Chesterfield, and Mr Kerr, the MEP for West Essex and East Hertfordshire, insisted yesterday that they had not defected from the Labour Party and that they would still take the whip of the European Parliament Socialist Group.

The rebels said they had accepted "honorary membership" of the Greens so that funds allocated by the Parliament yesterday could be held by the Greens until their

dispute with Labour had been resolved. At the beginning of every year the Parliament funds the running costs of political groupings according to the number of MEPs in each group. The rebels said that it would be wrong for the Socialist Group to receive money on their behalf when they could be expelled by Labour within weeks.

Mr Coates and Mr Kerr have been involved in a bitter confrontation with the Labour leadership over Tony Blair's plans to reform the welfare state. In the autumn they were threatened with suspension from the Labour group in Strasbourg for refusing to accept a new code of conduct.

Mr Coates said yesterday: "Our future isn't exactly certain so we had to inform the President of the Parliament that we didn't know which group we would be in all year. We could have sat as Independent Labour in the Socialist Group but no-one knew if the group could have us on that basis. I want to stay in the Socialist Group for ever and ever. It's a question of whether they will have me." The

Labour leadership believes that the two rebels are using the funding issue to try to force the party to expel them. The leadership is loath to "make martyrs" of the rebels and is hoping that party anger at their disloyalty will force them to leave.

Faithful Green, the MEP for London North and leader of the Socialist Group in Strasbourg, released a letter she received from José María Gil-Robles Gil-Delegado, President of the European Parliament, which made clear that they had left the group. The president wrote: "Mr Coates and Mr Kerr have informed me they are leaving the group of the Party of European Socialists and joining the Green Group with immediate effect."

Ms Green dismissed the rebels' claims that they had joined the Greens as honorary members. She said: "There is no such thing as an honorary membership of a group in the European Parliament."

Wayne David, MEP for South Wales Central and the Labour leader in Strasbourg, said their "inevitable" departure was good for all concerned and he predicted that they would be "soundly rejected" if they stood in elections on their new platform.

Labour leftwingers at Westminster also condemned the two rebels. David Winnick, MP for Walsall North, who was one of 47 Labour MPs to vote against cuts to lone-parents benefit last month, called on Mr Coates to leave the party quickly or be expelled. Mr Winnick said Mr Coates had discredited the campaign to defend welfare benefits by threatening to stand as an independent.



Ken Coates, left, and Hugh Kerr: "honorary" Greens



Driven aground: the Santa Anna pictured as light failed last night; and below the damaged vessel Oak

Failing light halts rescue of tanker crew

Continued from page 1

water, slipping over the sides of the deck cargo was still hanging over the side of the vessel, but that was not causing a problem because the winds were now from the east.

The Oak was said to be making good progress, but coastguards said they were watching the situation very carefully.

The captain of an RAF Nimrod aircraft which flew over the Oak yesterday told how he saw the vessel listing in the "huge swell". "It was one of the worst I have ever seen," said Flight Lieutenant Allan Squires, who flew the RAF Kinloss based aircraft out to the vessel.

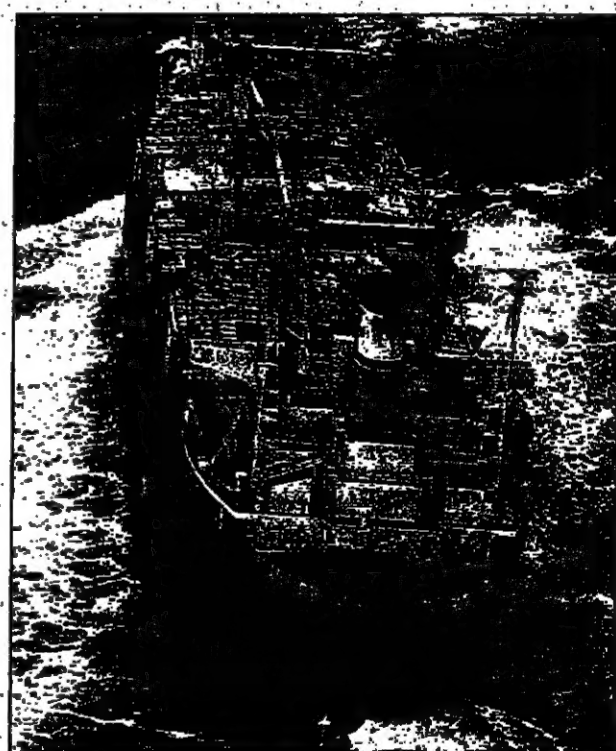
During the five-and-a-half hours he was over the Oak, Flt Lt Squires told how he saw

water, slipping over the sides of the deck cargo was still hanging over the side of the vessel, but that was not causing a problem because the winds were now from the east.

Speaking from Shannon, southern Ireland, he said the vessel crew undertook the hazardous task of unloading cargo to jettison it from the deck to help correct the list.

In north-west Wales, about 200 homes — mainly on Anglesey — were without electricity for two hours yesterday after high winds sent trees crashing on to power lines. The Old Severn Crossing, linking England and Wales was closed from early evening in 45mph gales. The QE2 bridge at the Dartford River crossing in Kent was closed.

Forecast, page 20



Middle-aged 'need welfare-to-work'

By NICHOLAS WOOD

MINISTERS are being urged to revamp the £3.5 billion welfare-to-work programme to concentrate assistance on the middle-aged and older people unable to find a job.

The programme was conceived as a lifeline for those aged 18 to 24 who had been out of work for more than six months. But a sharp fall in their numbers has prompted senior Tories to urge Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to reconsider the scheme.

The target audience among the young jobless has plummeted from 370,000 in April 1994 to 122,100 today. But unemployment among people aged 35-59 without a job for a year or more has fallen far less slowly. In October, there were 359,000 people in this category, down from 518,000 in April 1994.

David Willetts, the Shadow Employ-

ment Minister, is writing to Mr Brown to urge him to revise the programme, which offers young people a choice of a subsidised job with an employer, work in the voluntary sector or on an environmental taskforce, or a year's full-time education.

Mr Willetts said that, of the £3.5 billion allocated to welfare-to-work in the Budget, £3.15 billion was reserved for the 18-24 age group. Only £350 million would be spent helping over 25s who had been out of work for at least two years.

He said: "When Labour announced this programme in Opposition, there were 250,000 young people who had been unemployed for more than six months. Tory policies more than halved that figure and the latest figures show that there are 120,000 young people unemployed for more than six months. It is irresponsible

to be spending so much of the £3.5 billion welfare-to-work programme on a problem that is, thank heavens, shrinking fast."

"I also understand that the Treasury is selling the Department for Education and Employment that most money has to be spent on the young unemployed. So we will be in the absurd position of spending billions of pounds on a problem which is disappearing like the snow in spring."

Welfare-to-work is launched on Monday in 12 "pathfinder areas", initially covering 26,000 jobless people aged 18-24. They will enter a so-called "gateway" programme of four months' assisted job search and help with skills. Those who fail to get a job will join the scheme, which will guarantee them a job for at least six months.

Found: a job, page 9

MI6 spying on EU states

Continued from page 1

bit." He admitted he was uncomfortable about it. "I actually had a difference of opinion on this. I think you have to be very careful once you join the EU. These are friends and allies. As I said, I disagreed with the policy of spying on EU partners, Lord Owen replied: "Yes I did."

It was not clear from the programme whether other EU countries spied on Britain. Lord Renwick, former British Ambassador to Washington, recalled countless meetings in Paris with his French counterparts. "I cannot believe that they have spied on me in any circumstances. They wouldn't do that, would they?" he said.

Asked whether he had spied on them, he laughed and said that was a separate question. "You will have to ask whoever," Lord Hurd, who had expelled the importance of security service despatches from around the globe, was reticent when asked about their usefulness in Europe. "No, I don't want to talk about that," he said.

Cardiff, Lord Carrington, who resigned after the invasion of the Falklands, Lord Howe of Aberavon, and Sir Malcolm Rifkind, the last Tory Foreign Secretary.

Mr Cook and his predecessors reveal the demands of one of the most glamorous posts in government. "This would be a great job, if it weren't for the bloody foreigners," one predecessor complains.

Mr Cockerell, a noted documentary maker, said he was told by a senior official: "Of course we spied on them. It is as vital to know what our European partners are doing as any Soviet battle plan."

The Foreign Office refused to comment on the controversy last night.

He has let it be known that both the police and the Attorney-General acted independently of him and that his office was not informed about their plans.

The police file on the teenager is now with the Crown Prosecution Service, whose lawyers are expected to make a swift decision on Monday about what to do with the teenager, who is alleged to have sold drugs to the undercover reporter outside a South London pub.

Police are believed to have recommended that no prosecution should be brought, but have yet to decide whether he should be cautioned, which depends upon whether the teenager admits his guilt.

the winter Sale

ALDERS

BASILDON • BASINGSTOKE • BROMLEY • CAMBERLEY • CHATHAM • COVENTRY • CROYDON • ELTHAM • HULL • ILFORD • IPSWICH • LEEDS • NOTTINGHAM
OXFORD • PORTSMOUTH • REDDITCH • SLOUGH • SUTTON • WOKING AND ARDING • HOBBS, SW11

Also at ALDERS AT HOME AYLESFORD • BULTON • CHEREFORD • CHESTER • CHESHAM • CRAWLEY • HANDFORTH • KINGSTON • KIRKSTALL • KNUESBURGH • LINCOLN • NORTHAMPTON • PRESTON • READING • NOTTINGHAM • SOUTHAMPTON • TORE

The love of danger lies behind Kennedy curse

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

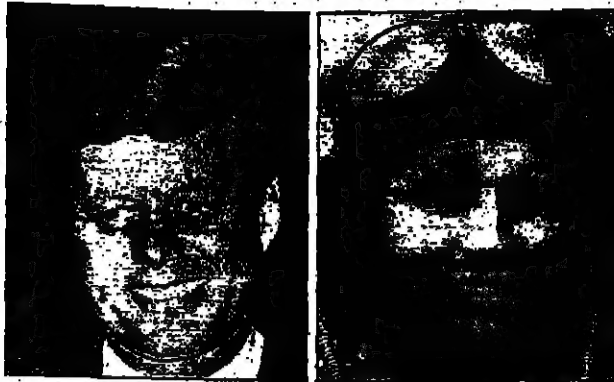
ONCE more there will be women in black and elegies for a life taken too soon. The Kennedy "curse" has struck again. A tendency to live dangerously has left America's foremost political dynasty ravaged by sexual impropriety, drugs, alcoholism and untimely death.

Michael Kennedy, who died while skiing in Aspen on New Year's Eve, lost his father, Robert, in 1968. He was amid a throng of well-wishers in a hotel kitchen in Los Angeles after winning a presidential primary. Ignoring warnings, he had campaigned by plunging into crowds and walking unprotected in parades, despite the shooting of his brother John, the President, in an open car in Dallas only five years before.

Their younger brother Edward, already a senator, was considered next in line to try for the highest office, but his White House hopes collapsed in 1969 when he drove his car off a rickety bridge after a late-night party on Chappaquiddick Island in Massachusetts. He swam to safety but his passenger, Mary Jo Kopechne, an aide, drowned.

In the next generation, David, another of Robert Kennedy's 11 children, died of a drug overdose in 1984 in an hotel after being banished from the family compound in Palm Beach, Florida.

Another son, Joseph, was



Victims: top, John F. Kennedy and brother Joe Jr.; below, Robert Kennedy and his son David



the driver in a 1973 car accident that left a teenage girl passenger paralysed for life. He is now a congressman from Boston, city of the Kennedys' Irish-American roots. Despite hard work for constituents, especially the poor, he has been hobbled by scandal. After his marriage was annulled, his former wife, Sheila, published a book criticising the Vatican's annulment practices and said Joseph had bullied her, dooming his hopes of the Massachusetts governorship.

Last August saw a rare falling-out among the family. John Kennedy Jr., the fallen President's son, berated his cousins Joseph and the late Michael as "posse boys for bad behaviour" in his political magazine *George*. The attack on Michael was provoked by

the revelation last April that he had a long affair with his children's baby-sitter, beginning when she was 14. Prosecutors did not press charges of statutory rape because the teenager refused to co-operate. Michael apologised and underwent treatment for heavy drinking. He parted from his wife, but they were reconciled.

If the case had gone to trial, it would have been another media circus along the lines of the "rotte rape" trial and acquittal six years ago of William Kennedy Smith, a nephew of Senator Kennedy, again in Palm Beach.

It is part of the Kennedy misfortune that scandals stay in the memory while their good works are overlooked. Michael devoted 12 years to a non-profit company supplying heating fuel to the poor.

The grandee of the Kennedy clan was the late President's father, Joseph P. Kennedy, whose labyrinthine business dealings included selling spirits during Prohibition, according to biographers. An arrogant man of prodigious energy, he had a long affair with the film star Gloria Swanson while remaining married to his wife, Rose.

Tragedy first struck during his lifetime. He had envisaged the presidency for his oldest son, Joe Jr., but he was killed in an aircraft crash in the Second World War. His daughter Kathleen also died in an aircraft accident. His daughter Rosemary has spent years in an institution after a failed lobotomy in 1941.

Troubled political family in mourning once again

Continued from page 1
the family well. I annointed Michael and gave Communion to the entire family, over 15 of them, in the hospital. It was a beautiful witness of their faith. It was so hurting, death upon death is so sad."

Later on Wednesday evening, the Kennedy family issued a statement, which said: "Michael Kennedy was a special and wonderful father, son, brother, cousin, and friend, and his family would appreciate your prayers during this tragic time. The Kennedy family also requests that the public and the press respect their privacy during this difficult moment."

President Clinton interrupted a new year celebration to

call the Kennedy family to express his condolences.

Joseph Kennedy, Mr Kennedy's brother, also issued a statement: "Michael's death is a terrible tragedy for his children, his wife, Vicki, and the entire family. We will miss him deeply."

The death of 11 children born to Robert and Ethel Kennedy, Mr Kennedy was for long regarded as one of the most talented members of his generation in America's "first family". More recently, however, he came to be regarded as the most controversial.

A quiet, unassuming man by Kennedy standards, he fell spectacularly from grace last spring when *The Boston Globe* alleged that he had had

an affair with the family's underage babysitter. Although sex with a person under 16 constitutes statutory rape, no charges were brought against Mr Kennedy.

However, his wife Victoria, to whom he had been married for 16 years, did leave him.

After initial denials, Mr Kennedy eventually acknowledged the relationship with the babysitter, although he insisted that it did not begin until she was older than 16. Yet the fallout from the scandal was so bad that it also soured the political career of his brother, Joseph, then hoping to secure the Democratic Party's nomination for the Massachusetts gubernatorial election.

Princess fund to begin payments

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT AND DANIEL MCGRODY

THE first disbursements from the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund are to be made within weeks after growing criticism that the charity is taking too long to spend the £35 million it has collected so far.

Charities at home and abroad associated with Aids, the homeless and children are believed to be among the first beneficiaries. The fund is expected to make another £10 million over the Christmas period through sales of records, videos and other merchandise. It is expected to exceed £100 million by the end of this year.

A senior figure in the fund said that trustees felt the time was right to start distributing the money. "We have been attacked for sitting on the money but we needed to get it right, to reflect what Diana would have wanted. We want to get the money doing some good." The fund has held several private meetings with leaders of the charities with which the Princess was closely associated - the "Kensington Six" - to decide how best to distribute the money and will ask Maggie Baxter, seconded from the Comic Relief charity, to help. It has received more than a thousand requests from charities round the world. The lat-

est include a children's hospital in Mexico and a drug rehabilitation unit in Bogotá. A spokesman said there had been so many requests that it would take time to agree priorities.

The newly-appointed nine trustees, under the presidency of Lady Sarah McCorquodale, the Princess's sister, agree that the Kensington Six will not be the sole recipients.

The fund will be boosted by huge Christmas sales of the memorial CD and of Sir Elton John's *Candle in the Wind 1997*. Sir Elton has already donated £20 million, and the record industry predicts he will be able to pass on as much again.



Causes close to Princess's heart are to benefit

Sparkling new year for Princes in Klosters

BY A CORRESPONDENT

PRINCES William and Harry waved sparklers in the air as they celebrated the new year in the Alps watching a huge fireworks display.

After a private dinner party at the Walsertal Hotel in Klosters, Prince William, 15, and Prince Harry, 13, watched the display from a hotel window while the Prince of Wales joined revellers in the street to see in the new year.

Joining the royal party were Zara Phillips, daughter of the Princess Royal, and Tiggy Legge-Bourke, the Princess' former nanny.

The boys' first day on the slopes yesterday was marked by the absence of photographers and reporters. "They enjoyed a completely media-free day," a royal aide said.

In return for an otherwise private skiing holiday, the Prince of Wales, his sons and Miss Phillips will pose for the cameras today on the slopes of Chesa Selifra above Klosters. "The Prince of Wales recognises the public's legitimate interest," the aide said. "But they would then like to be left alone for the rest of their holiday. They don't expect to see a lens, camera, whatever, anywhere near them."

Muggers grab royal gems

PRINCESS Erina of Saxony was the victim of a gang of six masked motorcycle thieves who snatched an attaché case containing rare jewels from the back seat of her Buick at a Riviera shopping centre (Susan Bell writes).

Among the stolen jewellery was a small 475-carat bear cub sculpted in rubies and blue pearl. The thieves also escaped with a mink stole and credit cards. Planning some last-minute shopping before

catching a flight to Hamburg on Tuesday, the princess and Pierre Mreches, her companion, had parked the car at Cap 3000, a large shopping centre near Nice airport. It was crowded and nobody paid much attention to the motorcycles. As the princess opened her door the gang grabbed the case and rode off.

The bear formed part of a family inheritance with a bizarre twist. In 1945, Prince Ernst Heinrich, the son of the

last King of Saxony, Friedrich August III and Princess Erina's father in law, buried 15 boxes of jewellery and antiques in the grounds of the family chateau in Dresden to hide them from the Russians. Twelve were recovered after the war but three remained lost until they were discovered in 1996 by two youths with metal detectors. The contents were restored to the nine heirs who shared the Fr600 million (£61 million) inheritance.



Robert Alan with Sister Rukmin Danapalan in hospital yesterday

Appeal to mother of dumped baby boy

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

POLICE have appealed to the mother of a newborn baby abandoned in the street on New Year's Eve to come forward. The two-day-old boy, named Robert Alan after the two ambulance men who picked him up, was found by a passer-by who heard him crying as he lay on the pavement behind a garage in Leyton, East London.

The 7lb 11oz boy was wrapped in a shawl and still had a plastic yellow umbilical clip attached.

Yesterday, Detective Inspector Phil Jones, from Leyton police, said they had checked all hospitals in the area but had been unable to trace the baby's birthplace. He said he was hoping that staff would remember delivering the child. "The clip is one which hospital staff say is only available to midwives or other medical staff."

The boy, who is of mixed race, is being cared for at Whipps Cross Hospital, East London. Ian Macintosh, a registrar, said: "He was in good condition and was relatively warm when found, and had probably been out in the cold for only half an hour."

Mr Jones said: "This is a beautiful baby boy who needs his mum. Let us make this a happy new year for both mother and child by reuniting them."

THE MOBEN

HALF PRICE

JANUARY SALE

OVER 50% OFF

PLUS THIS WEEK EXTRA 10% OFF MOST KITCHENS

WITH CRAFTSMAN FITTING INCLUDED IN EVERY PRICE

MOBEN

VISIT THE MOBEN JANUARY SALE AT OVER 200 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

For a free colour brochure and details of our free design service telephone

0345 001122

SHOWROOMS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK MON-FRI 10.00AM-5.30PM SAT 9.00AM-5.30PM SUN 10.00AM-4.00PM (Scotland Sunday 11.00am-5.00pm)

Kitchen and appliance offers only apply to kitchen purchases over £2500. Only one of each type of appliance per order. Half price refers to price list dated 24.11.97. Fitting excludes customers own appliances. *Not suitable on site supplies. **Integrated doors available at extra cost. No other offers apply.

YOUR MOBEN KITCHEN CAN INCLUDE ALL THIS:

- INTEGRATED APPLIANCES
- RANGE OVEN
- FEATURE EXTRACTOR CANOPY
- BUTLER SINK & LUXURY TAPS
- SOLID WOOD WORKTOPS
- FORMICA 40MM THICK WORKTOPS
- CORNICE MOULDINGS
- LIGHT RAFFLES
- WINE & PLATE RACKS
- QUALITY HANDLES & KNOBS
- APPLIANCE FACIA DOORS
- MATCHING ISLAND UNIT & WORKTOP
- MATCHING BREAKFAST BAR
- WICKER BASKET DRAWERS
- TONGUE & GROOVE PANELLING
- ALL FULLY GUARANTEED & INCLUSIVE OF VAT

NEFF • TECNIK

Examples of over 50 types of built-in appliances

LESS THAN HALF PRICE AND INSTALLED FREE*

Neff T2113 Gas hob with push button control & pan supports.	List price £175 NOW £87
Neff B1420 Circu-therm oven & grill available white or brown.	List price £435 NOW £217
Neff S5443 Integrated dishwasher 12 place settings.†	List price £750 NOW £349
Tecnik TK8601 Built under integrated (under) fridge 145 ltr capacity.††	List price £459 NOW £179
Tecnik TNC231 Deluxe fan oven & grill available in green.	List price £439 NOW £210

Offers only apply to kitchen purchases over £2500. Only one of each type of appliance per order.

UPRIGHT
CLEANERS

SAVE UP TO £120

SANYO Upright Cleaner
1100 watt motor.
Variable power
output.
Model SCU11WA.
Was £399.99.
Now £299.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
1000 watt motor.
2 level filtration.
Model 1421.
Was £149.99.

HITACHI Upright Cleaner
1100 watt motor.
On-board tools.
Model CV7750.
Was £119.99.

PANASONIC Upright Cleaner
1000 watt motor.
Model MC455.
Was £109.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
1100 watt motor.
Unique 15°
cleaning track.
Model 1440.
Was £169.99.

HITACHI Upright Cleaner
1100 watt motor.
Model CV7550C.
Was £169.99.

HOOVER Upright Cleaner
1100 watt motor.
5 stage filtration.
Model U2185.
Was £239.99.
Now £119.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
1100 watt motor.
Model 1430.
Was £159.99. In-store Price £119.99.

HOOVER Upright Cleaner
1200 watt motor.
7 stage filtration
system.
Model U2120.
Was £299.99. Now £129.99.

PANASONIC Upright Cleaner
1300 watt motor.
Electrostatic
filtration.
Model MC360.
Was £129.99.

CYLINDER
CLEANERS

SAVE UP TO HALF PRICE

PANASONIC Cylinder Cleaner
1000 watt motor.
Attachments included.
Model MC21A.
Was £69.99. In-store Price £49.99.

ELECTROLUX Cylinder Cleaner
1200 watt motor.
Model 1150.
Was £79.99.

HITACHI Cylinder Cleaner
1100 watt motor.
Model CV7070.
Was £79.99.

SANYO Cylinder Cleaner
1500 watt motor.
Model SC71A.
Was £129.99. In-store Price £79.99.

HITACHI Cylinder Cleaner
1100 watt motor.
Card required.
Model CV7100.
Was £119.99.

GOBLIN Cylinder Cleaner
1400 watt variable motor.
Model WH100P.
Was £159.99. In-store Price £99.99.

ELECTROLUX Cylinder Cleaner
1300 watt motor.
Card required.
Model 1170.
Was £99.99.

ELECTROLUX Cylinder Cleaner
1100 watt motor.
4-stage micro
filtration.
Model 1175.

PANASONIC Cylinder Cleaner
1500 watts.
5-stage filtration.
Model MC265.
Was £149.99.

AEG Cylinder Cleaner
1500 watts.
4-stage filtration.
Model E500VAMP.
Was £199.99.

MIELE Cylinder Cleaner
1500 watt motor.
Tools included.
Model S3121.
Was £199.99.

MIELE Cylinder Cleaner
1500 watt motor.
Water pump.
Model 'Cat & Dog'
Was £199.99.

AEG Cylinder Cleaner
1500 watt motor.
4-stage filtration.
Model S800.
Was £299.99.

DYSON Dual Cyclone
Cylinder Cleaner
Powerful 1200
watt motor.
In-line cyclone system.
Model DC22.

DYSON ABSOLUTE Dual Cyclone
Cylinder Cleaner
Powerful 1200
watt motor.
In-line cyclone system.
Model DC22.

HOOVER Pure Power
Upright Cleaner
1200 watt motor.
Variable power.
Model U2130.
Was £299.99.

HOOVER Pure
Power Upright Cleaner
1400 watt motor.
Model U2141. Was £399.99.
Now £299.99. In-store Price £189.99.

ELECTROLUX Power System
Upright Cleaner with
Bag or Bagless
Cleaning.
Model POWER
SYSTEM 1720.
Was £299.99. Now £189.99.

HOOVER Pure
Power Upright Cleaner
1500 watt variable
power.
Model U2155. Was £249.99.

ELECTROLUX Power System
Upright Cleaner
1500 watt variable
power.
Model 1740.
Was £239.99. Now £199.99.

DYSON ABSOLUTE Dual Cyclone
Upright Cleaner
1200 watt motor.
HEPA Filter.
Model DC21 ABSOLUTE.

DYSON DE STUL Dual Cyclone
Upright Cleaner
1200 watt motor.
HEPA Filter.
Model DC21 DE STUL.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner
Model V100L.
Was £229.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

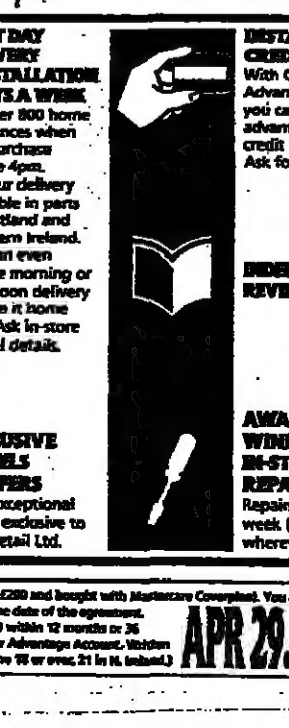
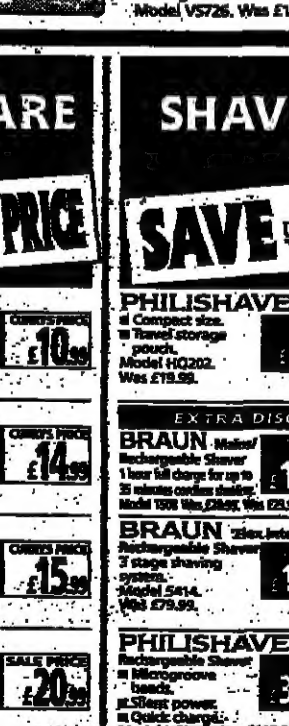
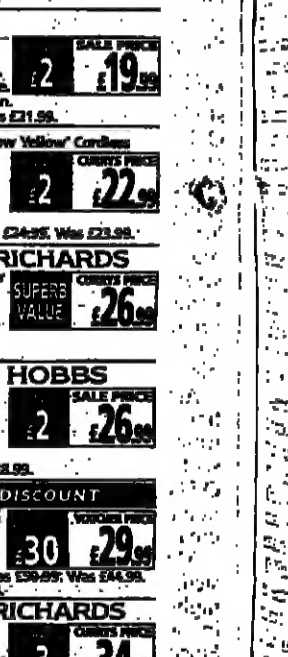
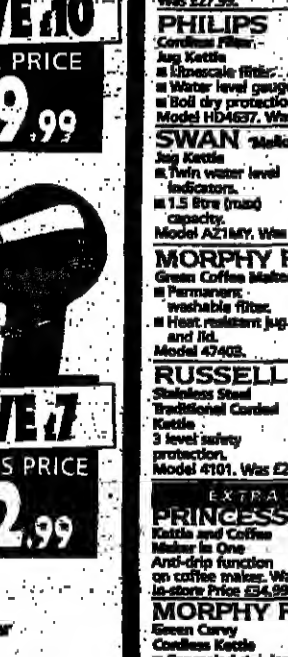
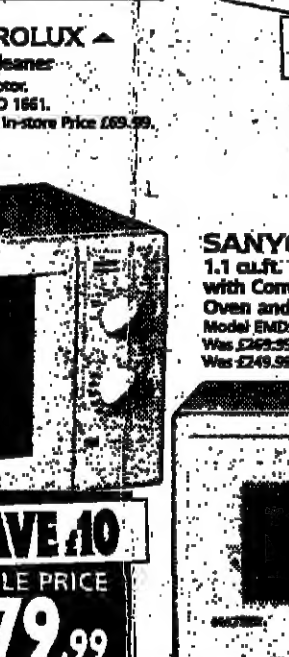
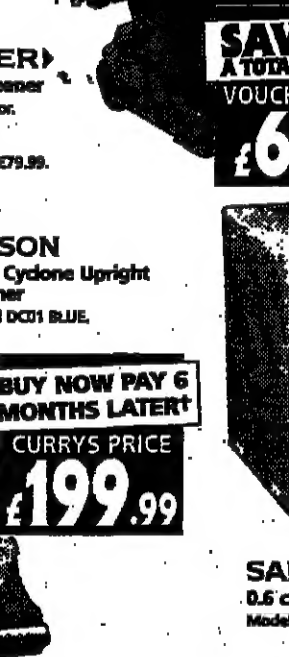
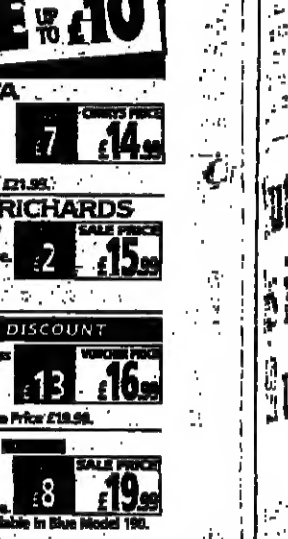
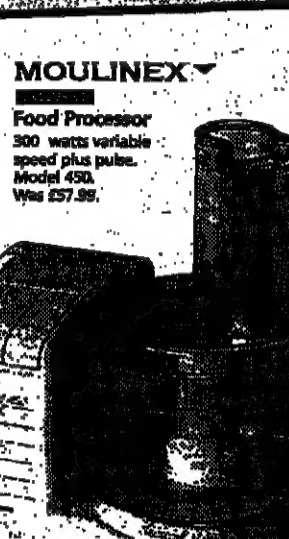
Currys

SALE

PLUS BUY NOW PAY 1999

ON A HUGE RANGE OF TOP BRAND PRODUCTS +

PLUS-NEW YEAR EXTRA DISCOUNTS



Only Currys bring you all this...

LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT

Many of our current prices are Currys lowest ever. Find a lower price for the same product and offer, complete, new, boxed and in stock in a local shop within 7 days of purchase and we'll match it.

WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN

BUY NOW PAY 1999

WITH ALL PRODUCTS OVER £200

WHEN PURCHASED WITH A MASTERCARD

COVERPLAN MASTERCARD

Coverplan offers complete peace of mind, providing up to 5 years expert service support should your product ever need repairing. Ask in-store for details.

EXCLUSIVE MODELS & OFFERS

For exceptional value, exclusive to DSG Retail Ltd.

AWARD WINNING IN-STORE REPAIR SHOP

Rapid 7 days a week (same day wherever possible).

COMBINED DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION

On all free-standing gas and electric cookers by CORGI registered engineers (includes Northern Ireland and selected Scottish stores).

PC HELPERS 7 DAYS A WEEK

0891 516516
Calls cost 50p per minute.

SAME DAY DELIVERY

For most large items. If you phone before 10am Monday to Friday and live within 10 miles of a Currys store.

CURRY'S DELIVERY

For direct, doorstep delivery. Freephone 0800 304304 or fax 01442 888145.

Currys

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORES

All Superstores offer easy parking, late night shopping and Sunday opening. Ring 0990 500666 for details of your nearest store.

Written quotations from Currys, Dept MK, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TE. Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details.

BUY NOW PAY UP TO 24 MONTHS LATER

APR 29.5%

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!

Look out for the special voucher savings on selected products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this voucher to any Currys store to claim your discount. One voucher per purchase. Some voucher offers are an alternative to existing trade-in offers. Not for use with other offers. Brands and models subject to change. Offer valid until 31st March 1998. HURRY! These voucher prices valid only until Wednesday 7th January 1998 unless otherwise stated.

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!

Look out for the special voucher savings on selected products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this voucher to any Currys store to claim your discount. One voucher per purchase. Some voucher offers are an alternative to existing trade-in offers. Not for use with other offers. Brands and models subject to change. Offer valid until 31st March 1998. HURRY! These voucher prices valid only until Wednesday 7th January 1998 unless otherwise stated.

Look out for the special voucher savings on selected products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this voucher to any Currys store to claim your discount. One voucher per purchase. Some voucher offers are an alternative to existing trade-in offers. Not for use with other offers. Brands and models subject to change. Offer valid until 31st March 1998. HURRY! These voucher prices valid only until Wednesday 7th January 1998 unless otherwise stated.

Look out for the special voucher savings on selected products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this voucher to any Currys store to claim your discount. One voucher per purchase. Some voucher offers are an alternative to existing trade-in offers. Not for use with other offers. Brands and models subject to change. Offer valid until 31st March 1998. HURRY! These voucher prices valid only until Wednesday 7th January 1998 unless otherwise stated.

Look out for the special voucher savings on selected products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this voucher to any Currys store to claim your discount. One voucher per purchase. Some voucher offers are an alternative to existing trade-in offers. Not for use with other offers. Brands and models subject to change. Offer valid until 31st March 1998. HURRY! These voucher prices valid only until Wednesday 7th January 1998 unless otherwise stated.

Fiancée killed by driver seconds after leaving pub

By Kevin Eason

A WOMAN was killed by a hit-and-run driver as she walked home from a New Year's Eve party with her fiancé, Lisa Ann Westbroom, 21, was knocked down after leaving a pub in Woodcote, Oxfordshire.

Another woman died after being hit by a car as she walked to a New Year's Eve party in Basildon, Essex.

Mr Stevens and Miss Westbroom, who were planning to marry later this year, had been celebrating the second anniversary of their engagement with her family, including her father, John, and younger brothers Wayne and Mark.

Miss Westbroom, a care assistant for the elderly, died at the scene. Mr Stevens, the oldest of four brothers from Yarnton, near Oxford, was in a stable condition with head injuries in the Royal Berkshire Hospital last night.

Witnesses said an E-registered Lancia Delta had careered around a bend on the B471, hitting a parked car before knocking down the couple, who had just left the party to walk home. The car then crashed into the Red Lion public house. Dennis Smith, the landlord, said that Miss Westbroom had been drinking orange juice minutes before she was killed. His wife, Jean, added: "The car came around



Lisa Westbroom: died at scene of the crash

the corner and hit Lisa, who was standing with Darren. She died straight away. The car then carried Darren along the front of the pub before crashing into the bay window at the end."

Mark Westbroom, 20, said: "We were all in the pub when it happened. We heard a loud bang and rushed outside."

The driver abandoned his car and fled. He was chased by some of the pub's customers but escaped. Three hours after the accident a man was arrested at Goring railway station near by after telephoning his parents.

Police were sent to the station and arrested a 20-year-old man who was taken to Reading police station. A police spokesman said the man had given a positive breath test and had been arrested on suspicion of caus-

ing death by dangerous driving and drink-driving.

Mr Stevens's mother, Heather, said her son had been "on the top of the world" as he celebrated the engagement anniversary to Miss Westbroom. "He was absolutely devoted to Lisa. She meant the world to him," she said. "She spent Christmas with us. She was like a daughter we never had."

Tina Thorne, 39, was killed as she was on her way with friends to a New Year's Eve party when she was hit by a car in Basildon. She suffered serious head injuries and died later in Basildon General Hospital. Traffic police yesterday issued an appeal for anyone who saw the crash or knew the driver of the dark-coloured car, possibly a Ford, that was involved.

Officers say the car will have suffered frontal damage in the collision with Mrs Thorne, who lived with her family in the town.



While most of the nation was sleeping off the excesses of the night before, Irene Hill, 71, left, and Mary Dowson, 83, took a traditional New Year's Day dip at Whitley Bay, North Tyneside. Another bather, also 83, said: "It's absolutely perishing, but I can't think of anything more bracing"

Youth loses his legs in midnight fall under train

By Adrian Lee

A STUDENT who lost both his legs when he fell under a train on New Year's Eve is thought to have taken Ecstasy.

The accident happened at Milton Keynes station, on the stroke of midnight, as James O'Shea, 19, and a small group of friends waited for a train home. Mr O'Shea and another youth stumbled off the platform on to the tracks. The second teenager was able to scramble to safety as the London-bound train approached, but Mr O'Shea was struck as he tried to haul himself to safety.

Ambulancemen arrived to find him trapped beneath the train and a paramedic was sent to the scene. Both Mr O'Shea's legs were later amputated. The impact also severed an artery below the waist.

Mr O'Shea, from Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, was last night said to be "very poorly" in Milton Keynes General Hospital, where his parents were with him. Witnesses said they had seen the youths larking about before the accident.

Inspector Adrian Wells, of British Transport Police, said: "This is an awful tragedy to have happened as the new year comes in. It appears the young man had been celebrating the new year. It shows that

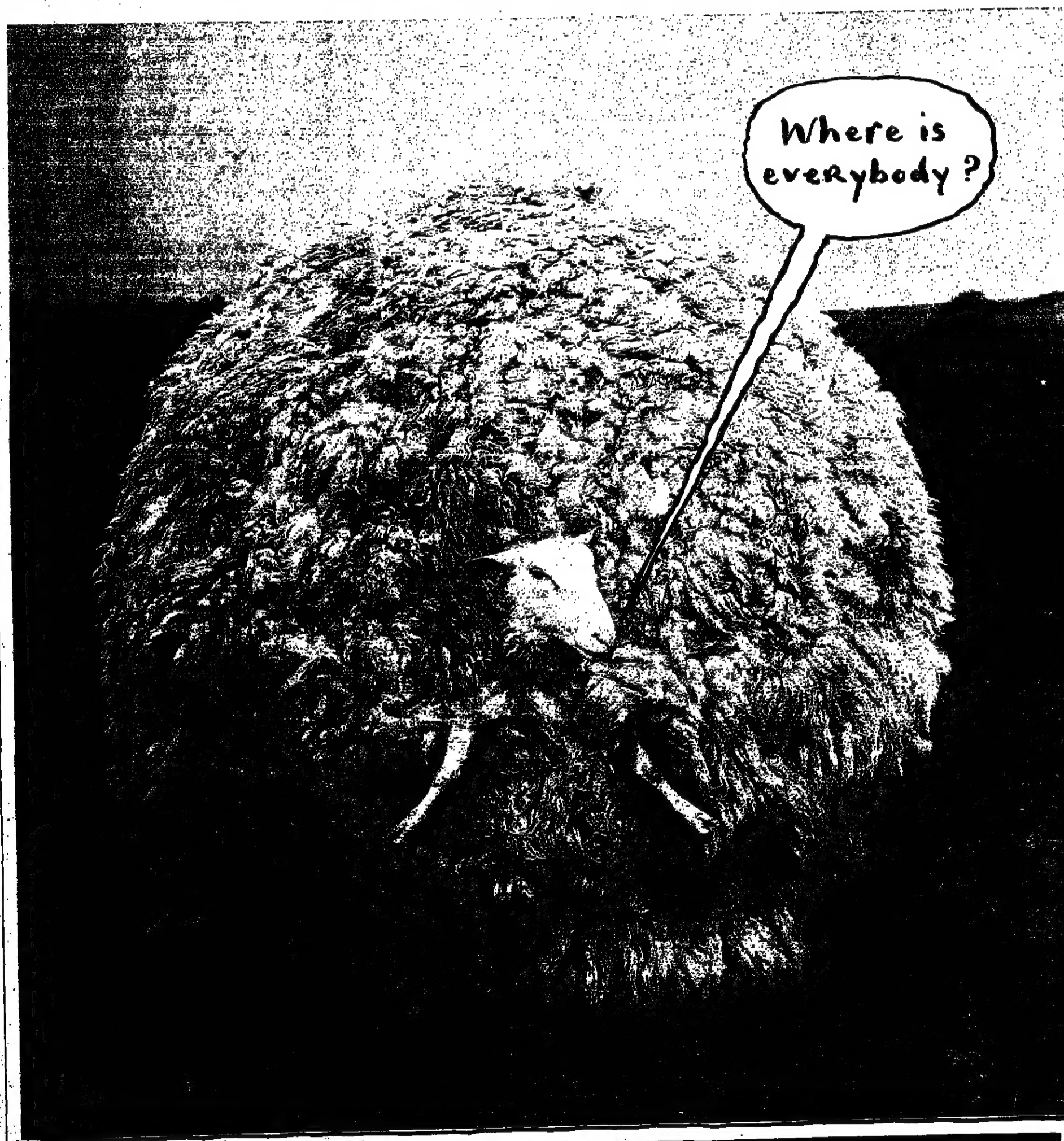
you cannot be anything other than sensible around railway stations."

He said witnesses to the incident were highly distressed and would not be interviewed for several days. Some, who had travelled from London to a rave party in Milton Keynes, were traced as they arrived home early yesterday.

It is believed that the driver of the train, which was slowing down as it pulled into the platform, saw Mr O'Shea on the rails but was unable to stop. Police sources said that one of his friends had told doctors that Mr O'Shea had taken Ecstasy. It is not known if Mr O'Shea attended the rave.

Film from video surveillance cameras at the station was being studied yesterday. The death of an 18-year-old who collapsed at a party was drugs-related, a Home Office pathologist told police yesterday, after a post-mortem examination. The exact cause of death will not be known until further tests have been carried out. William McLean, of Hamilton, South Lanarkshire, died on Wednesday after collapsing at a house in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

A man was arrested and released on police bail pending inquiries.



Tomorrow in THE SATURDAY TIMES



CYBER PIN-UP

The woman to watch



Vision

End of the line for Dam Buster test tanks

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE ship-testing tanks used by Sir Barnes Wallis to test the bouncing bombs used in the Dam Busters raid are to be demolished.

The two tanks, at the National Physical Laboratory in Teddington, southwest London, are no longer in use and are to be demolished as part of a redevelopment of the site. English Heritage hopes that at least one tank will be retained because of its historic interest.

The tanks were used to design ships' hulls. The first, built between 1909 and 1911, is 550ft by 30ft and 13ft deep, and the second, built in 1932, is 678ft long.

When Wallis had the idea of destroying German dams, he realised the only way of doing it was to explode charges underwater against the dam walls. Tests, including some at the ship tanks, showed that the best way of doing that was to bounce the bombs along the surface of the water until they reached the dams.

World Offers.

Flight prices from:

Athens £149 rtn Brussels £79 rtn Cologne £105 rtn

Fares are return from London and subject to availability. Travel periods may vary. Includes taxes correct at time of going to press. Athens - fare £125/tax £24, Brussels - fare £50/tax £19, Cologne - fare £58/tax £17. For details see ITV Teletext p.380, your travel agent, British Airways Travel Shop or book and pay at our Web site: www.british-airways.com

For thousands of World Offers call us now on 0345 222111
Book by 28th January '98

WORLD OFFERS
BRITISH AIRWAYS
The world's favourite airline

Petrol stations driven to close by price war

PETROL companies and supermarkets are expected to be urged by the Office of Fair Trading to call a ceasefire in their price war to prevent the closure of thousands of rural filling stations.

Small independent garages, vital to many villages, have been caught in the battle between oil companies and supermarkets, which have been winning a bigger share of petrol and diesel sales by cutting prices. More than 2,000 are estimated to have been forced to close in the past year, with the loss of 10,000 jobs. Many more are under threat.

The Retail Motor Industry Federation warned the OFT that of 18,500 petrol retailing sites two years ago, fewer than 10,500 would remain in the next century. Tiny garages where the staff fill the cars from a row of pumps are a rarity these days, largely replaced by electronically controlled forecourts.

John Bridgeman, Director-

The Office of Fair Trading is expected to act to protect a vital service, reports Kevin Eason

General of the Office of Fair Trading, has investigated whether sales were won by discounting at prices below cost. While he cannot condemn price cuts which benefit consumers, he is under pressure to curb the "predatory pricing" which leaves dozens of rural communities without their own filling station.

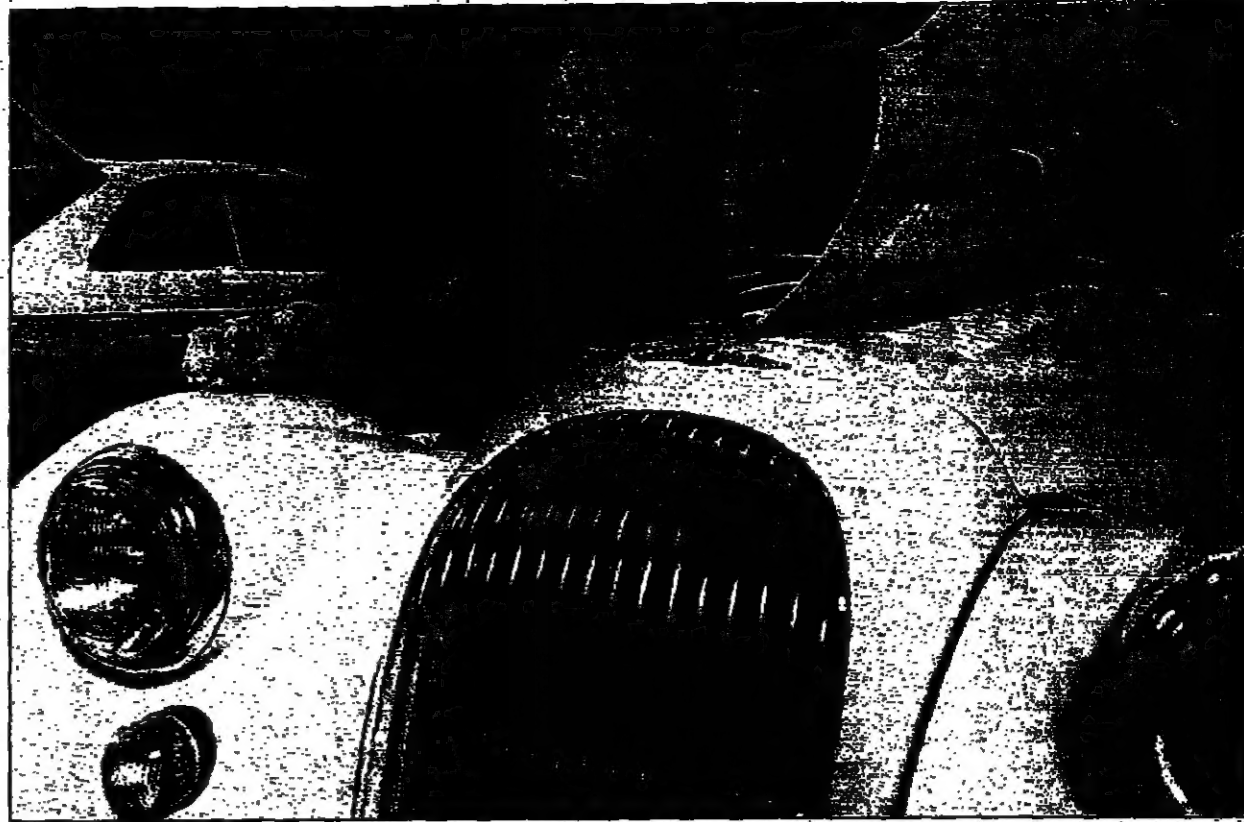
His report in the spring is expected to call for a code of practice to curb extreme price-cutting and provide plans for support for rural stations. Mr

Bridgeman will tell oil companies and supermarkets to stop selling petrol at a loss simply to win market share.

Small operators in outlying towns and villages cannot buy petrol in the bulk that brings discounts from oil companies and allows them to cut prices to compete. Figures compiled by the Retail Motor Industry Federation show that a typical supermarket sells two million gallons of fuel a year; a rural filling station might sell as little as a tenth of that amount.

In eight years, the proportion of motor fuel sold in Britain by supermarkets has jumped from 8 per cent to 22.1 per cent, with Tesco, Sainsbury, Asda and Sainsbury dominating the scene. As the supermarkets have taken more sales, oil companies — led by Esso, Shell, BP/Mobil and Texaco — fought back with price cuts of their own.

Motorists would buy £3 worth of petrol at Hugh Wilson's garage in Dunoon, in



Alan Ireland, who deals in Morgan cars near Truro, Cornwall. He had to give up selling petrol after 14 years.

Argyll and Bute, to get to a Tesco supermarket across the Clyde where they could fill up for as much as 8p a litre cheaper. Mr Wilson now gets help from Esso so his prices can be as low as Tesco's, but said: "It was tough. I can just about see Tesco's from here, so I was almost watching them

take the business because at the time I couldn't compete."

Alan Ireland gave up after 14 years. His little garage in Perranwell Station, Cornwall, now has a reputation as a base for restorations of Morgan sports cars instead of as the local filling station. "We couldn't afford to buy the amounts the

oil companies wanted us to take; it was worth the fight," he said. "People these days have to go into towns for their shopping anyway and would drive past to get to a supermarket. We wanted something more permanent."

Chris McGowan, the federation's chief executive, added:

"For some communities, the local filling station is vital. Many old people, the disabled or young mothers do not want to have to spend £5 or £10 in petrol just to get to their nearest filling station. We need help from the OFT to protect jobs in communities already drained of local services."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boyfriend in court on murder charge

The boyfriend of Lisa Blunt, a mother of four who was reported missing ten days ago, appeared before magistrates yesterday charged with her murder. Vincent Ronald Shilton, 29, from Bestwood, Nottingham, was remanded in custody for eight days.

Mr Shilton, a factory worker, was accused of killing his 25-year-old partner on or about December 21. He spoke only to confirm his name, date of birth and address. There was no application for bail and reporting restrictions were not lifted. Police have said they were confident that a charred body found two days ago in Bulwell, Nottingham, was that of Miss Blunt.

Police van death

A 22-year-old man died after he was hit by a police dog handler's van responding to an emergency call in St Helen's, Merseyside. Police officers gave the man first aid for severe head injuries at the scene but he was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital. The Police Complaints Authority is investigating.

Killer recaptured

A murderer who absconded from Leyhill Open Prison, Gloucestershire, was re-arrested yesterday in Wellingborough, Somerset. Anthony Lucas, 48, saying little for killing his common-law wife, was reported missing on New Year's Eve, which made him the tenth inmate to abscond from Leyhill last year.

Officers in brawl

An internal police inquiry is under way after two officers came to blows at a Christmas party held by the Crown Prosecution Service in Plymouth. A Devon and Cornwall Police spokesman confirmed that one of the policemen had been asked to leave the private party after "an argument".

Ring the changes

New BT telephone numbers for shopping and business services are launched this month. National call rate numbers beginning 0990 are being changed to 0870 as part of an industry-wide plan to make the cost of calls cheaper. The 0870 code for national services will apply to calls costing about 7p a minute.

Klan man dead

A man who served a jail sentence over his recruitment material for the Ku Klux Klan was found hanged at his home in Calcutt, Berkshire. Andrew Frazer, 32, was sentenced to six months in 1996 for possessing racially inflammatory documents with a view to stirring up hatred. An inquest will be held.

Screen debut

A water and dirt resistant windscreen featured in a BMW in an April Fool's advertisement three years ago is being offered as an option on its 8-series models. A special solution diffuses into the screen surface and prevents water droplets joining to form a film. At speeds over 40mph the drops are blown away.

Sea mail surprise

A postcard wrapped in polythene and put in the sea off North Foreland, Kent, in 1967 to test tidal movement has been returned. It was sent with the promise that the finder would be given half a crown (£2.50). Ferdinand Cosson, a German tourist, is to get his reward after finding the postcard in Denmark.

Drivers would pay up to £5 a gallon

MOTORISTS would refuse to give up the comfort and convenience of their cars even if the Government were to raise the price of petrol to £5 a gallon (Kevin Eason writes).

A survey for The Times by Automotical Rescue, the breakdown organisation, has discovered a nation wedded to its cars, no matter how difficult the journeys caused by congestion or the risks from pollution.

Seven in ten said they could not give up their cars "no matter what the cost". Surprisingly, motorists in towns and cities were most adamant with 72 per cent saying they could not give up, compared with 67 in rural areas.

And they were up their hands in horror when asked whether they might consider walking to work. Only 80 of the 1,000 motorists questioned across the country said they would consider it. Cycling was no more popular: only one in ten said they would get on their bikes to solve congestion.

The survey gives a snapshot of the modern motorist only weeks before the Government's transport White Paper is expected to propose radical measures to curb the movement of cars in towns and cities while putting pressure on train operators to run better services.

Motorists want to go on using their cars, even for the shortest trips, according to the survey. Nine in ten use their cars for shopping and half for travelling to work, with a fifth needing the car for the daily school run.

In fact, the school run, blamed for largely increasing rush-hour congestion, painted a depressing picture of the attitudes of many car users: 65 per cent said they would send their children on a free bus, but a third said they would not under any circumstances.

Motorists' solutions to congestion and pollution also attracted of leaving it to the Government. They wanted Parliament to improve public transport and make it cheaper, and force manufacturers to make more environmentally friendly and fuel-efficient vehicles. But most refused to contemplate daily life without the car.

OUR BIGGEST SALE ON HOMEBASE KITCHENS.

UP TO

50% OFF
SELECTED KITCHENS

sale

SAVE UP TO 50% ON
SELECTED HOMEBASE
KITCHENS

We'll even give you a FREE CREDA dishwasher worth £500

FREE CREDA
DISHWASHER WORTH
£500

10% OFF ALL SINKS

BUY NOW AND
PAY NOTHING UNTIL
SUMMER 1998

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE

HOMEBASE

MONDAY-TUESDAY 9AM - 8PM • NEW YEAR'S EVE 8AM - 6PM • NEW YEAR'S DAY ENGLAND AND WALES 10AM - 4PM (SCOTLAND CLOSED) • FRIDAY 9AM - 7PM • SATURDAY 9AM - 6PM
SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM (SCOTLAND 9AM - 4PM). OPENING TIMES MAY VARY. PLEASE CALL 0645 801 800 DURING OFFICE HOURS FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST STORE.
*The kitchens included in this promotion are 80% off Barwick Premier Carcass and Redland Classic Carcass. 60% off New Premier Carcass, 20% off Old Premier Carcass, Colwyn Premier Carcass and Sainsbury Classic Carcass and 10% off Sainsbury Premier Carcass, Ladbroke Premier Carcass and Wilton Classic Carcass. Discounts do not include installation. The fully fitted ranges in this promotion are 60% off Barwick Premier Carcass and 10% off Ladbroke Premier Carcass and includes installation. Fully fitted kitchens are subject to survey, additional work such as tiling, additional sockets, plastering, lighting and old kitchen disposal are not included. Full details available in store. *Built-in Model 4971677 costs £500 when purchased separately. Excludes basic 1000r applies to sinks purchased from the Homebase Kitchen Collection only. *On 1st June 1998 pay in full or take credit. Written quotations on request from Homebase Limited, Basingstoke House, Basingstoke, Surrey RG24 0HR. Homebase are licensed credit brokers. Loans subject to status and approval and are not available to anyone under 21 years. Example a kitchen costing £1,500. Pay in 24 monthly repayments of £57.42. Total amount repayable £2,076.22 (24.7% p.a. variable). Spend & Save Cards cannot be used on kitchen purchases. Products and offers may vary in N. Ireland and Isle of Man.

Christmas call by long-lost brother

By PAUL WHITTAKER

FRANK BEALE, 74, thought there had been a death in the family when he was woken by a telephone call at 6.30am on Christmas Day. The caller left him reeling in shock, but the news was anything but bad.

The former Metropolitan Police officer was staggered to learn that the voice on the other end in Australia was the brother from whom he had not heard in 64 years. Mr Beale, of Molesey, near Leamington, had given up all hope of seeing his only brother, Patrick, again after they were separated following their mother's murder in 1934.

The long-lost brothers last saw each other when Frank was ten and Patrick, who now

lives near Perth, Western Australia, was three. Their mother, Lucy Covell, was killed by a boyfriend during an argument in Watford. Last year Patrick Covell, 67, turned to the Catholic Child Welfare Council in London to help to find his brother.

Frank Beale: "Both of us were taken into care after our mother was killed, and we were split up. I was taken in by my aunt and uncle but, sadly, they didn't have room for Patrick. I remember the poor little thing going off to a children's home in Southampton and that was the last I ever heard about him."

The brothers are planning a reunion in Australia.

Women given cosmetic surgery for Christmas

From nips and tucks to cataract removals, private hospitals face a busy new year, writes Ian Murray

HUNDREDS of women are going into hospital this month to collect their Christmas presents. A few painful days later, they hope to emerge looking better.

The nips and tucks of cosmetic surgery have been one of the more unusual presents of the festive season. For some, it is a quick way to realise New Year's resolutions about losing weight. Bupa hospitals have been discreetly advertising their own version of Christmas cosmetic gifts, and they report that bookings for early January have risen by up to 15 per cent.

Peter Fernoy, of Bupa, believes that cosmetic surgery makes "a

very perceptive and thoughtful Christmas present". However, he admitted that partners had to be extremely careful in choosing their words before offering such a gift.

He added: "For those whose Christmas stockings are filled with varicose veins or cellulite, cosmetic surgery is proving an increasingly popular gift. Everything from top to toe is available."

Every year about 70,000 people — 90 per cent of them women — have a "cosmetic procedure". A full facelift costs about £3,875. A double

breast reduction is £3,000. Bilateral breast augmentation costs £2,255 plus the price of the implants, depending on size and filling. Breast reductions are £3,315 for women or £2,500 for men. A new streamline look by means of an abdominoplasty, or stomach tuck, is £2,370.

However, many doctors are quick to point out the potential risks of cosmetic surgery, emphasising that even the most skilled surgeons can not guarantee satisfaction. Barry Jones, a leading

plastic surgeon, has said that people should always approach their GPs for advice and be realistic: "The only surgeons who don't have complications are the ones who don't have operations."

Popular operations, such as breast reduction and facelifts, can sometimes lead to vivid scarring, while even the smaller operations, such as eyelifts or collagen lip implants, can lead to irritation and extended soreness. Those who undergo liposuction, where fat is sucked from areas around the hips,

thighs and stomach, can be left with numbness and bumpy and irregular skin.

Not all Christmas gift operations are for reasons of vanity. Long waiting lists mean that elderly people with cataracts can wait up to two years for an operation on the NHS that will help them to see properly again. The latest figures show that lists have grown for this operation by 13 per cent since June. As cataract removal is a low-priority operation, the looming winter crisis in hospitals inevitably

means that the time will get even longer.

More than two thirds of people aged over 60 have a cataract, and about 150,000 have them removed every year, with a 95 per cent success rate.

Some private clinics are now offering cataract gift vouchers so that family members can club together to pay for elderly relatives to see properly again.

Surgicare, which runs clinics in Manchester, Birmingham and North London, sells them for £985.

Bookings have been brisk, with about 20 per cent more operations than usual just before Christmas.

"When someone is in their seventies and unable to see properly, waiting for up to two years for a simple operation that can be done in a day and will put everything right is a very long time," Ian Waterman, of Surgicare, said.

"Many older people are now opting to use their savings for the operation, but caring families are also collecting money between them to buy the operation for grandparents. The gift of sight is one of the best Christmas presents."

Scientists 'see body parts as rich harvest'

BY A CORRESPONDENT

MEDICAL scientists are treating parts of the body as a raw material to be "mined and harvested", two American law professors said yesterday. Scientists were increasingly out of step with most people in the way they viewed the human body, said Lori Andrews and Dorothy Nelkin.

Organs, tissues and cells were all too often seen as impersonal objects to be used for research and commercial exploitation. This could be seen in the metaphors used by scientists. Writing in *The Lancet*, Professor Andrews, from Chicago-Kent College of Law, and Professor Nelkin, of New York University, said: "Body parts are extracted like a mineral, harvested like a crop, or mined like a resource."

"Tissue can be 'procured' — a term that is more commonly used to refer to land, goods, or the prostitutes provided for a client. Cells, embryos or tissue can be frozen, banked, placed in libraries or repositories, marketed, patented, bought, or sold."

One physician who patented a cell line referred to his Californian patient's body as a "gold mine". Pathologists had called a collection of 50,000 blood samples in the United States a "treasure trove". The professors said such an approach was misguided because, for many people the

body and its parts had important symbolic meanings.

Some people felt any use of their tissue violated their cultural or religious beliefs. Others were willing to donate their body parts but did not want to see them patented or commercially exploited. Some felt groups and individuals were entitled to financial compensation for the use of their body parts by scientists and companies.

The divergence of attitudes between scientists and lay people had led to numerous conflicts and disputes, the professors said. The history of science was littered with examples of such disputes intensifying when scientists ignored public concerns. Scientists' defensive response to animal rights protests, for example, had increased opposition and eventually had an impact on research. Activists had become more radical, calling not only for regulation but the abolition of experiments with animals.

The professors said: "The proliferation of disputes suggests that social conceptions of the body serve important purposes for individuals and society. Ignoring them may be hazardous — to the psychological wellbeing of individuals, to the maintenance of important social values, and to the future of science itself."

Rare gene resists HIV

SCIENTISTS have identified a genetic abnormality believed to help in making some people resistant to the Aids virus. The mutation, known as m303, was found in three of 309 healthy blood donors.

In conjunction with the delta 32 genetic mutation, it is thought to bestow resistance to HIV infection. Caroline Quillent and colleagues at the

Hospital of St Joseph in Paris claim that m303 prevents formation of a molecule that allows HIV activity.

Tests on 18 men who remained uninfected despite unprotected sex with an HIV-positive partner revealed one who was totally resistant to the virus. He was found to have both the delta 32 and m303 mutations.



Chrissie Alsop, superintendent radiographer at the Manchester Royal Infirmary, with the 2,000-year-old mummy of a woman who died from a common parasitic disease

Modern medicine reveals secrets of the tomb

■ The mummy of an Egyptian woman who died of bilharzia may help researchers to find a cure for the disease, reports Russell Jenkins

THE Egyptian mummy No 1766 appears young and beautiful in her ornate coffin, but modern science has revealed the ugly secret that she took to her tomb.

In life she was a member of the upper middle class, but her privileged lifestyle was no barrier to a painful death from a common parasitic disease. Two thousand years after her death her remains have been subjected to a CT scan at Manchester Royal Infirmary as part of a project on bilharzia, which afflicts more than 300 million people in 79 countries.

The Manchester University project is pioneering new techniques to trace the evolu-

tion of the disease over 5,000 or 6,000 years to guide research towards a successful cure. Such unlocking of the mummies' secrets is regarded as the next important stage in the study of the civilisation.

The team, led by Rosalie David, 51, the university's Keeper of Egyptology, has 24 human and 34 animal mummies, including the body of Khnum Nakht, complete with all its funerary artefacts, from the renowned

Tomb of the Two Brothers. The university has set up the first centre for biomedical studies in Egyptology. It is also the centre for the world's first ancient Egyptian tissue bank.

Dr David, who carried out one of the last whole-body unwrappings in 1975, said: "The ancient Egyptians wanted to live forever and we are offering them a sort of eternity. The tissue bank will be a big resource for future studies

not just into schistosomiasis [bilharzia] but other major diseases like malaria."

The Manchester collection was the result of collaboration between Jesse Haworth, a wealthy textile merchant, and the celebrated Egyptologist Sir Flinders Petrie, for more than a decade up to the turn of the century.

The latest phase of the team's work was prompted when an American medical company asked how schistosomiasis — caused by a water-borne worm-like parasite that can lead to chronic debilitation and death — had developed over the millennia. The resulting project, which, Dr David says, is the first epide-

miological study to trace the development of a disease over a 5,000-year period, is a combined effort with MSCI in Arlington, Virginia, and the Egyptian Ministry of Health.

Mummy 1766, excavated from Hawara, was thought to be particularly promising because X-rays had revealed a calcified bladder, indicating the presence of the disease. Dr David said: "She is shown as young and beautiful, but this is the reality. The other side of the coin is that they had problems with a whole range of parasitic infections. They suffered physically."

The CT scan enabled the team to examine the body without destroying the material. Elsewhere scientists used a range of diagnostic tools to study small amounts of tissue. In recent weeks the team devised a method of diagnosing the disease using immunocytochemistry, a technique using fluorescent tags, bound to antibodies, to locate the disease. It is a world first.

Dr David said: "The results will eventually be compiled for comparison with those of the Egyptian Ministry of Health. We will hopefully be able to see what happened to this disease, which social groups were worst hit and what was happening to the environment. It may give us an insight into how it should be attacked now."



0500 500 366

We promise to save you money in '98.
(Hence the gentle hint to call us.)

You still haven't phoned us? Well, here's another little reminder of why we think it would be worth your while...we promise if you don't make savings on your call bill compared with BT (even against their PremierLine and Friends & Family schemes, but excluding temporary promotions), we'll give you back double the difference.* So why not ring us on FreeCall 0500 500 366 quoting RTIM50.



CABLE & WIRELESS
What can we do for you?

We promise to save you money on your phone bill, or give you back double the difference. FreeCall 0500 500 366.

*Price Promise refers only to Cable & Wireless Standard Landline and Local Call bills only. For cable customers the Price Promise comparison is on your total bill for non-cable services. It is on your total bill excluding line rental. Does not apply to calls made using Calling Card. Comparison excludes BT's temporary promotional offers. For full details see our Price Line. Application subject to terms. To improve our service, we may occasionally monitor or record your telephone calls or use our Cable & Wireless.

FAX MACHINES



BROTHER 510 FAX MACHINE
 • Automatic phone/fax switch.
 • Anti-curl system leaves
 faxes flat making
 them easier
 to handle.
 Was £169.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£179.99

BROTHER 1020
 PLAIN PAPER
 FAX MACHINE
 Uses A4 plain paper.
 Was £259.99.

SAVE £50
SALE PRICE
£299.99

SAGEM
 COMPACT FAX MACHINE
 • Automatic phone/fax switch -
 use phone keypad to send fax.
 • Ultra-compact
 design.
 Was £129.99.

EXCLUSIVE
SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£119.99

CELLNET MOBILE PHONES

18 MONTHS ALL INCLUSIVE
 PACKAGE INCLUDES:
 • Panasonic G350 Digital mobile phone.
 • Connection.
 • 18 months line rental.
 • 25 of calls every
 month.
 Was £249.99.
HURRY - LIMITED STOCKS
 Also available on Philips, Ericsson, Motorola, 7500, Nokia 1010.
 *When you connect to Cellnet Digital. Subject to status.
 Months 13-18 are by redemption. Ask in-store for details.

SAVE £20
SALE PRICE
£129.99

CORDLESS PHONES

HEWLETT PACKARD 320LX
 4MB WINDOWS CE HANDHELD
 COMPUTER
 • 4Mb memory.
 • Full width backlit screen.
 • Docking station.
 Was £499.99. £449.99.

ORGANISERS

Packard Bell
 D6256 ELECTRONIC
 ORGANISER
 Large clear display.
 Was £79.99.

SAVE £20
SALE PRICE
£59.99

Packard Bell
 D6500
 ORGANISER
 840k memory.
 Was £39.99.

SAVE £5
SALE PRICE
£34.99

Packard Bell
 D6125A
 ORGANISER
 250k memory.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£49.99

SHARP
 ZD4350
 ORGANISER
 640k memory.
 Was £54.99.

SAVE £5
SALE PRICE
£49.99

CASHO
 5550
 ELECTRONIC
 ORGANISER
 228k memory.
 Was £74.99.

SAVE £5
SALE PRICE
£69.99

TELEPHONES

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £7
SALE PRICE
£14.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£49.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

saisho 471
 TELEPHONE
 • 10 number memory.
 • Last number
 redial.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£89.99

FREE SOFTWARE
 SPEND OVER £49.99
 on any 2 full priced games and get
 an EA Classic or Replay title FREE

Dixons

sale

PLUS CLEARANCE BARGAINS
 This week, as well as great Sale deals, you'll find unique
 deals in your local store. Even bigger savings on end-of-line,
 ex-display and discontinued models. Thousands of items
 at never-to-be-repeated savings.

HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS

FREE CANON BJC 250 COLOUR PRINTER

£429.99

ORGANISERS

PACKARD BELL
 D6256 ELECTRONIC
 ORGANISER
 Large clear display.
 Was £79.99.

SAVE £20
SALE PRICE
£59.99

PACKARD BELL
 D6500
 ORGANISER
 840k memory.
 Was £39.99.

SAVE £5
SALE PRICE
£34.99

PACKARD BELL
 D6125A
 ORGANISER
 250k memory.
 Was £29.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£49.99

SHARP
 ZD4350
 ORGANISER
 640k memory.
 Was £54.99.

SAVE £5
SALE PRICE
£49.99

CASHO
 5550
 ELECTRONIC
 ORGANISER
 228k memory.
 Was £74.99.

SAVE £5
SALE PRICE
£69.99

35mm COMPACT CAMERAS



Canon A77
 COMPACT CAMERA OUTFIT
 • Large viewfinder.
 • Auto wind/review.
 • Complete with 2 film,
 photo album, leather
 case and battery.
 Was £59.99.

SAVE £9
SALE PRICE
£49.99

CHINON
 2000S
 COMPACT CAMERA
 Was £29.99. £24.99.

SAVE £50
SALE PRICE
£129.99

CHINON
 2010
 COMPACT CAMERA
 Was £179.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£169.99

SAMSUNG
 PRO 15
 COMPACT CAMERA
 Was £179.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£169.99

Canon SURESHOT 280
 ZOOM COMPACT CAMERA OUTFIT
 • 38-60mm zoom lens.
 • Red-eye reducing flash.
 • Large viewfinder.
 Was £109.99.

SAVE £20
SALE PRICE
£89.99

SLR CAMERAS

Nikon F50 SILVER
 AUTOFOCUS SLR CAMERA
 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
 Price including Chequebook £299.99
 Price including Chequebook £249.99

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£219.99

MINOLTA 3008
 AUTOFOCUS SLR
 CAMERA
 Was £229.99.

SAVE £50
SALE PRICE
£349.99

Canon EOS 500
 TITAN LENS AUTOFOCUS
 SLR CAMERA OUTFIT
 Was £299.99. £249.99.

SAVE £50
SALE PRICE
£349.99

ADVANCED PHOTO SYSTEM

Canon DLS
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM CAMERA
 Was £259.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£229.99

MINOLTA 3008
 AUTOFOCUS SLR
 CAMERA
 Was £229.99.

SAVE £10
SALE PRICE
£219.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!

Look out for the special voucher
 on selected products. In store
 only. Please check the voucher for
 details. One voucher per customer. Not valid with
 other offers. Brand name only. Discount using Code
 *4 Week Office offer. HURRY! These voucher
 prices valid only until Tuesday 6th January 1998.

SAVE £30
SALE PRICE
£119.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Canon DLS 220
 ADVANCED PHOTO
 SYSTEM ZOOM
 CAMERA
 Was £249.99. £229.99.

SAVE £70
SALE PRICE
£279.99

Dixons

There's a Great Deal going on

PRICE CHECK

Every week we check the prices of
 hundreds of products in the national
 press to make sure that Dixons Price
 Check prices can't be beaten. If you find
 the same product cheaper locally, please let
 us know immediately. We will be pleased to refund the difference. Just
 notify us within 7 days of purchase. The product must be new, complete
 and available for immediate delivery. Mail order prices excluded.

INTEREST FREE OPTION

Account is interest free (subject to a 1% fee for credit) for 12 months. If you do not
 pay the minimum monthly payment of £2.00, the account will be treated as a
 credit card. Interest will be charged on the outstanding balance from the date of
 purchase. Annual interest rate 12.99% (representative). Example: £100 purchase
 repaid by 12 monthly payments of £2.00. Total repaid £24.00. Balance
 repaid by 12 monthly payments of £2.00. Total repaid £24.00. Balance
 repaid by 12 monthly payments of £2.00. Total repaid £24.00. Balance
 repaid by 12 monthly payments of £2.00. Total repaid £24.00. Balance
 repaid by 12 monthly payments of £2.00. Total repaid £

Alien hedgehogs spread terror in the Hebrides

Invaders' taste for eggs has added to the hazards facing endangered birdlife, writes Michael Hornsby

ECOLOGISTS are planning to evict an alien invader from remote Scottish islands where it is threatening the survival of important bird populations.

The improbable subject of their concern is the hedgehog, which is multiplying on a Malthusian scale on the Outer Hebrides, unchecked by predators and in little danger of coming to a sticky end beneath the wheels of traffic.

Introduced more than 20 years ago, the hedgehogs have developed a taste for the eggs of ground-nesting birds, among them the rare corncrake and large colonies of dunlins, lapwings, oystercatchers, ringed plovers and gannets.

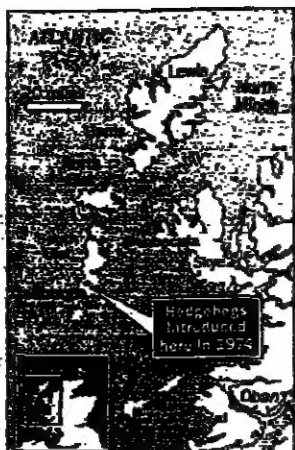
David Minns, head of public affairs in Scotland for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), said: "There are estimated to be at least 10,000 hedgehogs on the island of South Uist alone.

There is no doubt they have contributed to a decline in bird numbers in recent years.

"It is sad that an attractive and well-loved creature should have been plunked down in an unsuitable area and be causing problems. It is a classic example of the folly of transporting wildlife to places where it has not evolved in balance with other species."

An inhabitant of Dalhousie, at the southern end of South Uist, is thought to have imported the first four hedgehogs to the islands in 1974 to control slugs. By 1993, the creatures had spread throughout South Uist and into Benbecula and North Uist, via the causeway linking all three islands.

Now the RSPB and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the Government's wildlife adviser, are discussing a plan to trap as many hedgehogs as possible and take them to the



mainland. "Complete clearance is not practicable as there are so many rocks and crannies where hedgehogs can hide," Mr Minns said. "The aim would be to create hedgehog-free zones in core areas of the machair, the grassy plain that runs down the west coast of the islands and provides the main nesting sites for birds."

In the early 1990s wildlife officials rounded up and flew back to mainland Scotland the proliferating descendants of a pair of hedgehogs imported to North Ronaldsay in the Ork-

ney Islands 20 years earlier. But there are far more hedgehogs on the Outer Hebrides.

A survey by SNH scientists on South Uist between 1993 and 1995 suggested that in some areas the predators were destroying up to 10 per cent of bird's nests.

Since then hedgehog predation is thought to have increased. "Radio-tagging has enabled us to follow the movements of individual hedgehogs and has shown clearly that they are wandering about the machair eating bird's nests," Mr Minns said.

Corncrakes are particularly endangered. There are estimated to be fewer than 700 pairs in Britain, all confined to islands in the Inner and Outer Hebrides. Elusive at the best of times, the birds betray their presence mainly by the male's raucous call.

Crofters have been paid grants to postpone cutting grass so as to avoid disturbing corncrake nests. This is thought to have helped to bring about a small recovery in corncrake numbers. But the uncut grass may also be providing good cover for hedgehogs.



The oft-squashed hedgehog has multiplied rapidly in the Outer Hebrides, where there are few vehicles

Breast is best to avoid lung problems

By PAUL WHITTAKER

CHILDREN who have been bottle-fed as babies are almost twice as likely to suffer from respiratory illnesses as those who were breast-fed, according to new research.

A study of 545 children between the ages of six and ten at Ninewells Hospital and Medical School in Dundee reinforces the health benefits of mother's milk. The study, published in the *British Medical Journal* today, also found that solid feeding before 15 weeks was associated with greater body fat and weight.

The probability for the development of lung problems was 17 per cent for children exclusively breast-fed for at least 15 weeks, 31 per cent for those who were partially breast-fed, and 32.2 per cent for those wholly bottle-fed. Maximum blood pressure was raised significantly in children who were exclusively bottle-fed, compared with children who had breast milk.

The findings, from a research team led by Stewart Forsyth, concluded: "The probability of respiratory illness occurring at any time during childhood is significantly reduced if the child is fed exclusively breast milk for 15 weeks and no solid foods are introduced during this time. Breast-feeding and the late introduction of solids may have a beneficial effect on childhood health and subsequent adult disease."

Other studies have shown that breast-feeding protects babies from gastro-intestinal illnesses and respiratory infections. Current NHS guidelines recommend that babies be breast-fed exclusively for the first four months.

Many mothers give up breast-feeding after the first few weeks. In 1985, 64 per cent of babies in Britain were breast-fed at birth, falling to 52 per cent at two weeks and to 39 per cent at six weeks.

Women are the busiest royals

By A TIMES REPORTER

THE Princess Royal was the busiest member of the royal family last year, with the Queen her nearest rival, according to a survey of official engagements published in *The Times* today.

The survey taken from the Court Circular shows the Princess Royal carried out 642 engagements at home and abroad, as against 600 by the Queen. The Duke of Edinburgh, who was third with 532, just ahead of the Prince of Wales who attended 513 official functions.

The list does not include functions attended by Diana, Princess of Wales before her death. She was removed from the Court Circular after her divorce in 1996.

The Royal Family's total of 3,820 engagements at home and overseas shows an increase of 108 from 1996. A quarter were on behalf of charities. Mr Tim O'Donovan, a retired insurance broker from Datchet, Berkshire, who compiles the survey, said: "This just shows how hard working the Royal Family really are."

Although they are all getting older, they are still very busy. The Queen Mother, at 97, carried out more engagements despite her continuing health problems. The Duke of York was able to carry out more engagements, 263, because "he is now doing a desk job at the Ministry of Defence so is more available."

Prince Edward carried out 183 engagements. He is busy with own television production company. Mr O'Donovan said: "Those who argue for a smaller Royal Family should look at the contribution made by the Queen's sister and her cousins with 41 per cent of the engagements in support of charities."

Letters, page 17

Found: a job after 2,900 applications

By SIMON DE BRUELLES

A MAN who applied unsuccessfully for 2,900 jobs during 13 years of unemployment starts work today. Graham Hoskins, 50, from South Wales, attended hundreds of interviews but despaired of finding employment again.

The £115 a week he will earn as a valet for a van hire company is more than twice the money he was collecting on the dole. Mr Hoskins, from Blacktown, near Newport, said: "I never gave up hope and I already feel as if some of my pride and dignity is returning."

He was made redundant in 1984 from his job as a storeman at a factory. Mr Hoskins, who looks after his disabled father, said: "I just kept getting rejections. It was really disheartening and, when I reached my 50th birthday, I thought I would never work again."

"My message to people who have been out of work for a long time is not to give up a



Hoskins urged others never to give up hope

job could be just around the corner." He joined his local Jobclub in 1987 and has been on its books longer than anyone else. Stephen Rondel, the manager, said: "We are thrilled that Graham has landed a job after all this time. He had a week's trial and they gave him the job on the spot."

Alan Thomas, assistant manager at Halo Van Hire, said: "We are delighted to give Graham a chance."



**BEFORE YOU BUY
A 1.6 5 DOOR HATCHBACK CONSIDER
THESE TEN POINTS.**

1	1 YEAR'S FREE INSURANCE	2	2 YEARS' FREE SERVICING	3	3 YEARS' DEALER WARRANTY	4	ALFA 146 1.6 16V £14,489*
5	The model which has been named 'Best in Class' for 1997.	6	For more information visit our website: www.alfarom.co.uk	7	Advanced Braking System with ABS (Anti-lock Braking System) to prevent wheel lock-up and maintain steering control.	8	A 100% aluminium engine block, designed for maximum strength and rigidity.
9	All models are fitted with 16V engines and 5-speed manual transmission.	<p>Internet: http://www.alfarom.co.uk</p> <p>0800 718000</p> <p><small>*Price includes delivery, licence, VAT and 12 months' road tax. Excludes insurance, registration and optional extras. Prices are subject to change without notice. *Excludes VAT and 12 months' road tax. Excludes insurance, registration and optional extras. Prices are subject to change without notice.</small></p>					

Scores killed in Burundi clashes

Mr Ndizeye said that members of Rwanda's defeated army were among the rebel casualties. Documents found on the attackers indicated they were part of the Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy, a previously unknown group. Although rebels regularly strike in northwestern and southern Burundi, it was the first rebel attack on a military target near the capital for two years. (AP)

Washington: Orlando Hernández, Cuba's top baseball pitcher who was earning \$6 a month after being banned from playing, was yesterday granted entry to America where he can expect to make millions of dollars as a player (see page 10 for more writes).

*When you connect to the GraphiX All-in-One Package, when you connect to One 2 One. Automatically credited in months 13-15 of use. Excludes Up 2 You Pack and GraphiX and World One 2 30 All-in-One Pack. When you connect to One 2 One. When you connect to One 2 One. Time Plan or GraphiX All-in-One Package. Excludes World One 2 30 and Up 2 You mobile phones. Connection to mobile phones is subject to status. A deposit may be required. Ask In-store for details.

Asian 'tigers' face return to law of jungle

MALAYSIANS must be willing to make sacrifices to defend their currency during 1998, or face the prospect of "recolonisation", says Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister.

Showing that his views had changed little on East Asia's current financial crisis, the Malaysian leader, 71, said: "The world will not show any sympathy and offer their hand to us because we are facing economic pressure. The laws of the jungle are rampant."

Dr Mahathir, who had previously blamed the financier George Soros, other unnamed "speculators" and a "Jewish agenda" for Malaysia's problems, said the fall in the currency's value had made Malaysians poorer. Not only was their freedom to run the economy at stake, but their political freedom too.

Since the onset of the Asian economic crisis in June, the value of Malaysia's currency, the ringgit, has fallen by 35 per cent against the dollar, and the value of shares on Kuala Lumpur's stock market has plunged by 40 per cent.

The fiery Malaysian Prime Minister was not the only East Asian leader anticipating increased hardship and sacrifice. The short-term outlook for the "tiger" economies, ana-



Malaysia's Dr Mahathir, left, sees a risk of economic turmoil leading to "recolonisation", James Pringle writes

lysts agree, is gloomy: frugal Singapore and the Philippines, it seems, are the only states likely to avoid the worst of the troubles.

In South Korea, one of the countries hardest hit, President-elect Kim Dae Jung said the new year marked the start of the state's "most difficult time since the Korean War". It was "standing at a crossroads between catastrophe and rebirth", he said yesterday.

In Thailand, where the crisis started with the fall of the baht, King Bhumibol Adulyadej said there were no signs that the economy would recover in 1998. "You must lead a life of austerity, be conscious, patient and work harder for the nation," he said.

A similar message came from President Suharto of Indonesia. "We are fighting hard to overcome this difficult time," he said. "The Government has clear programmes to get over the turmoil."

Hinting at the danger of possible strife between ethnic

Indonesians and the country's more prosperous Chinese minority, President Suharto said: "In these uneasy times, the strength that must be relied on is national unity."

In Hong Kong, Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive, toured markets where more than a million chickens have been killed in an effort to stamp out the avian flu virus. The outbreak is bound to damage tourism further.

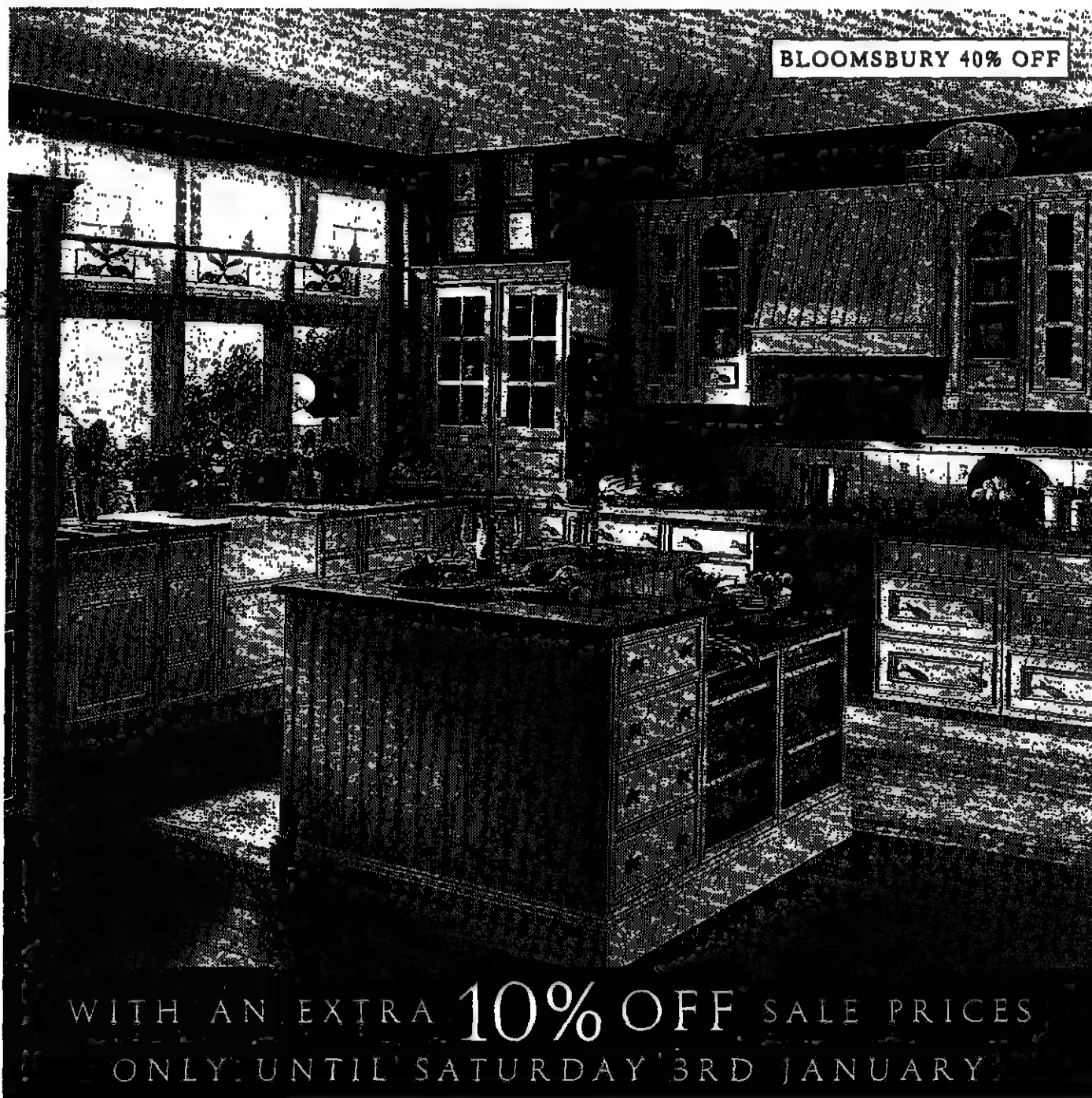
Even in heavily controlled China, there are growing indications of economic slowdown. Just before the new year, Li Peng, the Prime Minister, admitted he was unable to help redundant workers or to reduce poverty among 50 million Chinese. "State enterprises are still in a difficult situation," he said.

China has pledged not to devalue the yuan this year, but some insiders say that this may become necessary by April to meet the challenge of regional rivals whose products are now cheaper.



An early visitor inspects a newly opened stretch of the Great Wall. The two and a half mile section, which passes through the Juyongguan Pass, reopened yesterday after being closed for repairs for five years. In Beijing, President Jiang Zemin and Li Peng, the Prime Minister, joined 10,000 people for a new year gala concert given by the China, Shanghai and Beijing Symphony Orchestras in the Great Hall of the People

HALF PRICE SALE NOW ON



WITH AN EXTRA 10% OFF SALE PRICES ONLY UNTIL SATURDAY 3RD JANUARY

When you buy from Magnet, you can be sure that you get a beautiful kitchen designed to meet your every need. You can also be sure that it's built to take everything life can throw at it. Right now in the Magnet January Sale, all cabinets in over 50 kitchen and bedroom ranges have been reduced, most by 50%, and there are some great offers on **Whirlpool** appliances too.

Visit your local Magnet showroom today to take advantage of these fantastic sale offers.

Magnet

Designed for living BUILT FOR LIFE

for your nearest showroom and opening hours call 0800 192 192

Opening hours: Friday 2nd January 8.00am-5.00pm, Saturday 3rd January 8.00am-5.00pm. Most stores will be open 10.00am-4.00pm Sunday. Scotland Friday 2nd January 10.00am-5.00pm. Discounts are off prices charged between 24th November and 25th December. *When you spend £1,000 or more on kitchen cabinets.



Pol Pot was being held under house arrest

Pol Pot 'has fled to haven in China'

FROM CAROLINE GLUCK IN PHNOM PENH

POL POT, the former Khmer Rouge leader, is reported to have left the northern Cambodian jungle, where he was under house arrest, and gone to China.

According to General Nhiek Bun Chay, the opposition commander loyal to Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Cambodia's ousted Co-Prime Minister, the move was aimed at preventing Pol Pot from facing an international tribunal for his crimes against humanity. However, the general could not give any details about the circumstances surrounding Pol Pot's alleged departure.

General Nhiek, whose troops have entered into a de facto alliance with the Khmer Rouge in fighting the Government of Hun Sen, the Prime Minister, also claimed that at the same time as Pol Pot left Cambodia, Ta Mok, the guerrilla group's defence chief, had held talks in Thailand with a Chinese diplomat.

Both claims have been strongly denied by an official at the Chinese Embassy in Phnom Penh. Senior Cambodian government officials also dismissed the reports, saying the opposition forces were simply trying to provoke trouble.

China was formerly a close backer of the Khmer Rouge movement, providing military and financial aid. But after the signing of the 1991 Paris peace agreement, direct Chinese support for the guerrilla faction ended. Beijing quickly recognised the new Cambodian coalition Government after Prince Ranariddh was ousted in a coup.

Alarm on Right as students turn to sex studies

UNDERGRADUATES at the University of Virginia, sculpt genitalia from Play-Doh; students at the State University of New York are lectured by sado-masochists; at Brown University, academics are giving classes on homosexuality in the animal kingdom.

Half a century after the field was invented by a soft-spoken biology professor from the Midwest named Alfred Kinsey, the study of sexuality is booming in America.

Gone are the days when sex education provoked giggles at the back of the classroom. Courses on sex can now be found at many big universities, under rubrics ranging from the innocuous "gender studies" to the extravagant "queer histories" at Yale.

Hobart and William Smith Colleges in upstate New York have begun offering degrees in the new discipline of "men's studies", using Hollywood films to examine such topics as date rape, homophobia and domestic violence.

The University of Minnesota is setting up a Centre for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies with an endowment of \$500,000 (\$300,000). The University of Iowa plans a certificate programme in sexuality, and Hampshire College in Massachusetts is offering "Queer Lives", a postmodern version of Mods and Greats.

Across America, PhD students are devoting themselves to such subjects as the semiotics of stripping. The pioneering Centre for Lesbian and Gay Studies at the City University of New York boasts on its faculty Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, the wife of an ophthalmologist who earned notoriety with a paper to the

Kinsey's heirs are thriving in American universities, James Bone reports from New York

Modern Language Association entitled *Jane Austen and the Masturbating Girl*.

The surge in sexuality studies has come under attack from conservatives as an open invitation to a misspent youth. The State University of New York provoked outrage recently when it invited sado-masochists to a sex conference.

Roger Kimball, managing editor of the monthly *New Criterion*, denounced the decision in the pages of *The Wall Street Journal* under the headline "Syllabus for Sicks" and George Pataki, the Republican Governor of New York State, joined the attack.

The climate is sufficiently hostile for some universities to take precautions to protect their graduates. Brown University's course on "Queers and Culture" is described on report cards, for instance, as "Identities-Communities" in order not to offend potential employers. Yale recently refused a \$7 million offer by the gay playwright Larry Kramer to fund a gay studies professorship.

Kinsey's intellectual heirs are not necessarily flattered by their imitators. Dr John Bancroft, the British medical researcher who now runs the Kinsey Institute at Indiana University, laments that many of the new courses lack scientific rigour. "There is still a lack of good, basic research into the fundamentals of human sexualities," he told *The New York Times*.

Kinsey, the author of reports on the sexual habits of American men (1948) and women (1953), has come under scrutiny. James Jones, a professor at the University of Houston, has just published a biography claiming that the founding father of sex studies filmed his assistants having intercourse, had sex with multiple partners and indulged in homosexual affairs.

Leading article, page 17



Kinsey, pioneer has come under scrutiny

New avian flu case confirmed

HONG KONG: The slaughter of more than a million chickens was completed here yesterday as a new case of avian flu was confirmed and other countries showed rising concern. Officials said more than 1.4 million chickens, geese, pigeons and quails had their throats slit or were gassed in the three-day operation intended to halt the spread of the H5N1 virus, which has killed four people. A govern-

ment spokesman said the disinfecting of farms, wholesale markets and retail outlets was continuing.

In addition to the four dead, there are now ten confirmed cases of avian flu and six suspected cases. The latest confirmed case is a 14-year-old girl whose condition was satisfactory in hospital, a government spokesman said.

The Government says it has a contingency plan for any

epidemic, but the *South China Morning Post* quoted government sources as saying the next ten days would be crucial in establishing the scale of the crisis. There is growing international concern over the virus, only detected in birds until a three-year-old boy became the first human fatality last May. The United Arab Emirates is the latest country to ban poultry from China and Hong Kong. (AFP)

French jobless protests herald grim new year

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE much discussed malaise afflicting France was vividly illustrated over the new year as discontent with high levels of unemployment erupted into unrest and violence among poor youths, the unemployed and homeless.

Trouble flared on New Year's Eve as youths rampaged through poor suburbs. The unrest reached its peak in Strasbourg in eastern France, when young people set fire to 53 cars and destroyed 21 telephone boxes and 32 bus shelters.

Home-made bombs damaged several public buildings in the city, including a gymnasium, college, primary school and community centre. Riot police were called in to break up gangs of youths and children, some as young as ten, and twelve people were arrested. The violence brought the tally of cars set alight in the city this

year to 570. More alarm bells over the growing discontent among France's "excluded" have also rung with the widespread protest by frustrated job seekers, who began occupying unemployment offices three weeks ago.

They are demanding an end-of-year bonus of Fr3,000 (£300) and pressing Lionel

Paris honours pop and skiing

Paris: French pop singers Mireille Mathieu and Sylvie Vartan, along with World Cup ski champion Luc Alphand, were among those awarded France's Legion of Honour marking the new year yesterday. The award, created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, is handed out by presidential decree. (AFP)

Jospin, the Prime Minister, to fulfil his election promise to provide new relief to the long-term unemployed. To provide such a bonus would cost M. Jospin's Government a total of £1 billion, a sum he can ill afford to spend as he keeps a tight rein on the budget in order to qualify for European Economic and Monetary Union.

"Martine Aubry [the Employment Minister] is offering an increase in welfare of Fr2 a day. It is an insult," said Laurent Guilloteau, a member of a solidarity group for the unemployed which has called for a national day of protest on January 16.

Protesters celebrated new year at the 14 unemployment offices they have occupied around the country. Earlier in the week, demonstrators in Marseille, where unemployment is above the national

average, barricaded the railway lines delaying thousands of holiday travellers.

On New Year's Eve, 60 homeless people stormed the five-star Royal Monceau Hotel on the Champs Elysées. The manager offered them Fr10,000 to leave quietly, but

the homeless threw the notes on the floor. The attempted occupation was broken up by the police amid scuffles.

An occupation of Fouquets, one of the city's most famous restaurants, ended peacefully after the management promised to send 40 meals to a nearby

welfare centre temporarily occupied by the homeless.

In recent weeks, more than a dozen cities have suffered transport strikes by drivers protesting against attacks on their colleagues in poor neighbourhoods of such normally calm cities as Rheims

and Orleans. As the stories of discord multiply, *Le Monde* warned the Government this week that it could be facing "an open revolt by society's sacrificial victims". Christian de Boissieu, a professor of economics at the Sorbonne, agreed. "In France, the most

uncontrollable protests are ones that start from the bottom. That is where it is most dangerous," he said, referring to the student uprisings of 1968 and the railway workers' protests of 1995.

Leading article, page 17



A car burns in Strasbourg in eastern France early yesterday when new year celebrations turned into violent protests against unemployment. Marauding gangs of young people set fire to cars and telephone boxes and bus shelters were destroyed. Twelve people were arrested.

Big Sale Tiny prices.

OFFICE CONNECT SYSTEM

- Intel 233MHz Pentium® II Processor
- Mid Tower Case
- 32MB SD RAM
- 5.2GB UDMA IDE Hard Disk Drive
- 15" SVGA Colour Monitor
- 4MB 3D Graphics Card
- 24 speed Max CD ROM Drive
- 56Kbps Voice Fax/Modem
- Wavetable 32 Integrated Sound
- 180 Watt PMPO Speakers
- Canon BJC 4200 Colour Printer
- Joystick
- Over £540 of Microsoft and other Software
- Windows '95

PAY NOTHING UNTIL 1999

INCLUDES FREE PRINTER UPGRADE

~~£1608⁰⁰~~ inc VAT

NOW £1249⁰⁰ inc VAT

NOW £1467⁵⁸ inc VAT

Don't waste your money on yesterday's technology.

At the Tiny sale you get the latest technology at the lowest prices. Not PCs which are past their sell-by date.

All our PCs are PC '97 compliant so you can be sure they can handle not only today's requirements but tomorrow's too.

Trust Tiny to give you a genuine bargain.

HOME VALUE PLUS SYSTEM

- Intel 166MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ technology
- Desktop Case
- 16MB EDO RAM
- 2.1GB Ultra DMA IDE Hard Disk Drive
- 14" SVGA Colour Monitor
- 2MB 3D Graphics Card
- 24 speed Max CD ROM
- 16bit Stereo Soundcard
- 180 Watt PMPO Speakers
- Canon BJC 4200 Colour Printer
- Joystick
- Over £580 of Microsoft and other Software
- Windows '95

INCLUDES FREE PRINTER UPGRADE

~~£1032⁰⁰~~ inc VAT

NOW £799⁰⁰ inc VAT

NOW £938⁸³ inc VAT

PAY NOTHING UNTIL 1999 NOT EVEN A DEPOSIT

REPAYMENT EXAMPLE

OFFICE CONNECT SYSTEM

PC cash price £1499.30 (inc delivery £27 + VAT @ 17.5%). Pay whole balance on or before due payment date interest free. Alternatively, pay 36 monthly payments of £58.86. Total amount payable £2118.96. APR 26.9%. Written quotations upon request. Finance subject to status.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FREEPHONE

0800 7319372

TINY

51 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

ALTRINCHAM	GLASGOW	MILTON KEYNES
BELFAST	GLOUCESTER	NEWCASTLE
BIRMINGHAM	GUILDFORD	NORTHAMPTON
BOLTON	HUDDERSFIELD	NORWICH
BRIGHTON	ILFORD	NOTTINGHAM
BRISTOL	IPSWICH	OXFORD
BROMLEY	KINGSTON	PETERBOROUGH
CAMBRIDGE	LAKESIDE	READING
CANTERBURY	LEEDS	SOLIHULL
CARDIFF	LEICESTER	SOUTHAMPTON
CHELMSFORD	LIVERPOOL	STOKE
CHESTER	LINCOLN	SWINDON
COVENTRY	LONDON W1	TUNBRIDGE
CRAWLEY	LONDON SW10	WELLS
CROYDON	LONDON EC2	WATFORD
EALING	MANCHESTER	WOLVERHAMPTON
EDINBURGH	MEADOWHALL	
EXETER	SHEFFIELD	

THE BIGGEST PC MANUFACTURER IN THE HIGH STREET

TINY COMPUTERS LIMITED, REDHILL BUSINESS PARK, BONEHURST ROAD, SALFORDS, REDHILL, SURREY RH1 5YB.

FAX 01293 822 514. www.tinycomp.co.uk
All trademarks acknowledged. All prices and manufacturers specifications are subject to change without notice. Please check availability before ordering. Goods are offered for sale subject to standard conditions of sale available on request. E&OE. Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks, and MMX is a trademark of the Intel Corporation. Prices exclude delivery.

American debt row threatens finances at UN

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A DEADLOCK between the European Union and the United States is threatening the financial future of the United Nations as it enters its new fiscal year.

America had demanded that its share of the UN's administrative budget be cut from 25 per cent to 22 per cent this year. But European nations refused even to discuss the reduction unless Washington agreed to discuss the reduction of its billion-dollar debt to the world organisation, which it failed to do.

The result is that the UN began its fiscal year yesterday facing a likely 3 per cent shortfall in its annual budget, with Washington's debt still unpaid. The cash crunch could mean eventually that UN salaries will go unpaid.

Some UN officials, mindful of the popular backlash against the Republican-dominated Congress after it closed down the US Government in a budget-cutting exercise in 1995, argue that the UN should dramatise its plight to the American people by shutting its doors temporarily for lack of funds. But Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, opposes such theatrics.

The crisis was caused by the failure of the US Congress to approve a deal repaying about \$936 million (£560 million) of Washington's \$1.3 billion debt to the UN in return for a reduction of its contributions to the UN budget first to 22 per cent and then, by 2000, to 20 per cent.

The deal collapsed when Chris Smith, a Republican congressman from New Jersey, inserted unrelated provision insisting that no US government money should be used to fund abortions overseas, wording unacceptable to the Clinton Administration.

President Clinton has promised to try to revive the package next month by passing a supplemental appropriation through Congress. But some Republicans lawmakers are voicing doubts that it will ever be approved. In the meantime, the EU, which would have to make up much of the shortfall caused by any drop in American dues, has dug in its heels.

The damaging stalemate comes as a blow to Mr Annan, who was elected with strong backing from Washington for his programme of UN reform. Mr Annan recently secured passage of a UN budget totalling \$2.53 billion over the next two years, a \$76-million dollar cut over the previous two years.



Cook: urging partners to follow weapons lead

Britain to press EU for code on arms exports

By MICHAEL BRYNEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Government is preparing to press Labour's new moral foreign policy on its European partners with plans to enforce an arms export code. In an early initiative of the British presidency, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, is to urge all EU members to follow Britain's lead in tightening criteria for arms exports and thus deny weapons to countries violating human or democratic rights.

Mr Cook has told campaigners that France, a strong competitor in arms exports, has agreed not to seek new markets in countries denied weapons by Britain. Officials in Brussels, however, were doubtful that either France or Belgium would pass up the opportunity to increase their arms sales.

The move comes after calls by Oxfam, Safer World and other governmental organisations for a tough EU code of conduct to prevent weapons going to repressive regimes. Mr Cook announced new regulations for exports in July, which will form the kernel of a European code to be negotiated over the next six months. This would ban the sale of all arms that could be used for internal repression or aggression on neighbouring states.

All 15 EU member states would have to agree a common system of legally binding end-use controls. This would ensure that arms were not exported to one country and then sent on to another with a poor human rights record.

Next week Mr Cook will launch the publication in Britain of a study by an American foundation of ways to prevent conflict. The Carnegie Commission report looks at the conflicts in Rwanda, Bosnia and more than 40 other nations in the 1990s. A key finding is the key role of Western arms sold or smuggled to militants and insurgents.

John Lloyd, page 16

ZANZIBAR

The luxury ZANZIBAR SERENA INN in the old 'Stone Town' brings Serena's renowned hospitality and service to the 'Spice Islands'.

5 nights Bed & Breakfast

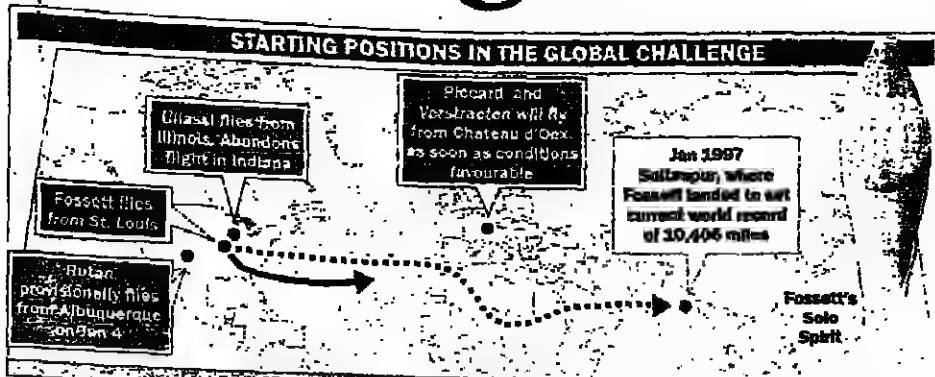
18 Jan - 20 Mar 98 £834

12 Apr - 27 Jun 98 £641

Zanzibar can be combined with several beach resorts in Kenya & Tanzania.

Smack 0181 423 3000

The great balloon race lifts off



US millionaire begins third solo endeavour

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AN AMERICAN millionaire has begun his third attempt to become the first person to fly non-stop around the world in a hot-air balloon.

Steve Fossett lifted off from the Busch Stadium in St. Louis, Missouri, at 5.04pm local time on Wednesday. At a brief press conference before his ascent, he forecast "a solid trajectory across the Atlantic towards Portugal", expecting to reach Europe tomorrow.

Mr Fossett, whose project has cost \$350,000 (£210,000), said: "It's a very difficult challenge, but I have a reasonable chance. This is a dangerous endeavour, but I'm willing to take some risk to achieve it." He then climbed into his balloon, *Solo Spirit*, waved to the assembled throng, and lifted off.

He must hope for better luck than his rival, Kevin Ulissi. Taking off at 8.45pm on Wednesday from Rockford, Illinois, Mr Ulissi's attempt to circumnavigate the globe came to an abrupt halt only two hours and 15 minutes later, when a burst helium container on board his balloon caused him to abort his flight 100 miles south of Chicago.

The *Solo Spirit* telephone hotline reports, however, that Mr Fossett's systems "are at 100 per cent". He has chosen to fly at a consistent height of 20,000ft, and is travelling at 74 knots. In contrast to the more high-tech efforts of his various competitors, Mr Fossett is flying solo in an unpressurised capsule which will expose him to the rigours of high altitude and cold. Mr Fossett

already holds the record for the longest uninterrupted flight by hot-air balloon. He set it a year ago this month when he flew 10,406 miles over six days, two hours and 44 minutes. On that attempt to fly around the world — his second — he also became the first to fly solo in a balloon across the African continent.

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the leader of Libya, denied Mr Fossett permission to fly over his country, forcing a lengthy detour. This wasted valuable fuel, and Mr Fossett had to abort his flight in a wheat field near Sultanpur, in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

On his new journey, Mr Fossett is expected to cross the Atlantic to Portugal, veer northeast to Britain, and then head southeast over Europe to Ukraine. He will then navigate east over Russia, Kazakhstan and China, then cross southern Japan. The track across the Pacific is northeast

to British Columbia, and finally to a landing north of St. Louis. An analysis of weather patterns has shown that there should be favourable conditions almost throughout the journey. Mr Fossett will survive on military-style MREs (meals ready to eat) with chemical heating pouches. His balloon has a bunk with a sleeping bag and he will use a bucket as a lavatory. This will be emptied over the side.

Balding, paunchy and 52, Mr Fossett has swum the English Channel, run the Boston Marathon, attempted to climb Mount Everest, driven a Porsche in the Le Mans and Daytona 24-hour races, taken part in the Paris-Dakar rally, and sailed a trimaran non-stop around Britain and Ireland.

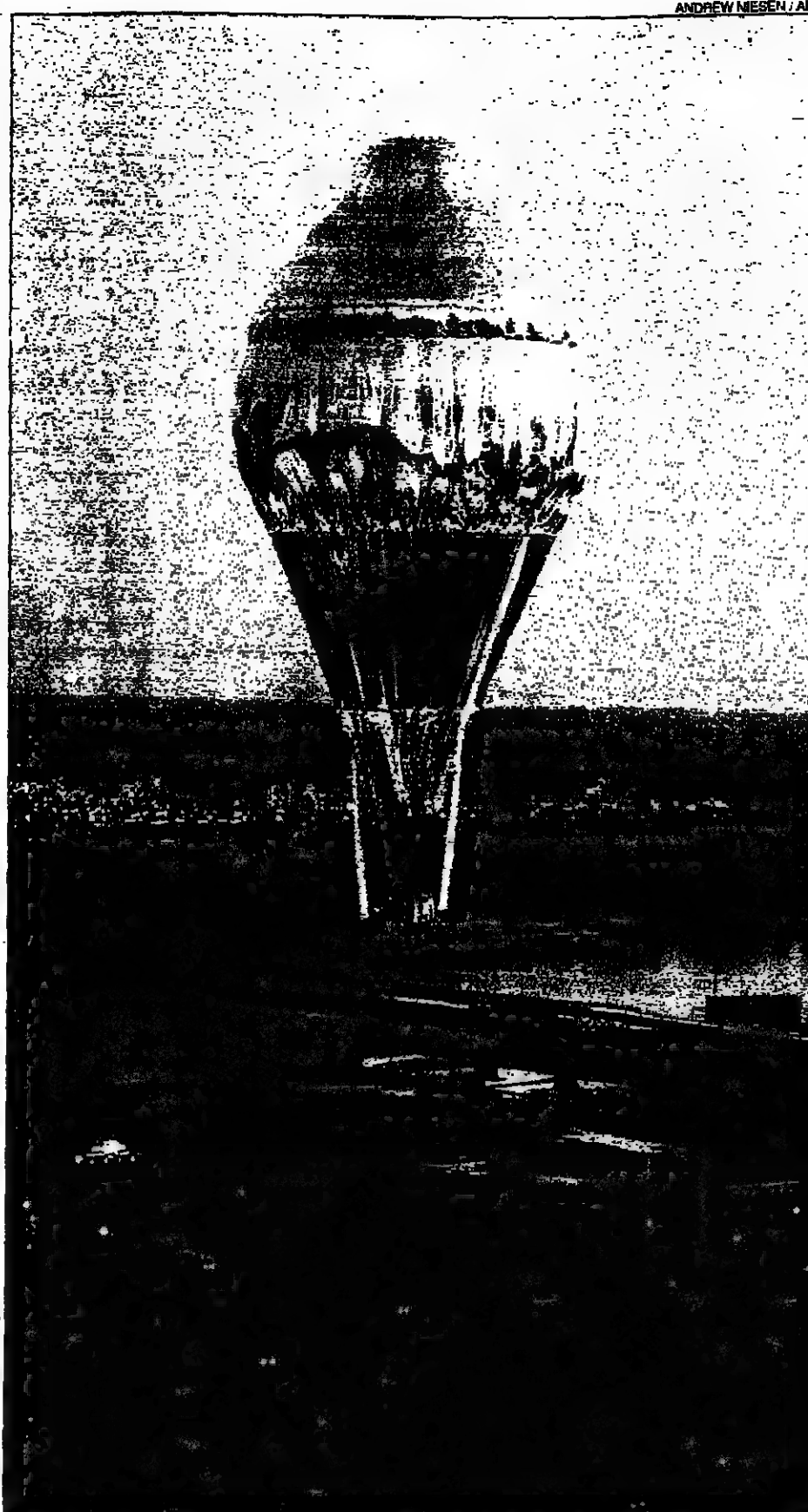
As a somewhat effete boy, he was warned off sport in school, which instilled in him the lifelong need to prove himself physically. In a recent interview, he said: "People spend a lot of time watching sports, but I've set a priority of participating in them."

Later this month, the veteran American balloonists Dick Rutan and David Melton are expected to lift off from Albuquerque, New Mexico, in *Global Hilton* in their attempt to circumnavigate the globe.

The Washington University Information Hotline for the *Solo Spirit* Around the World Balloon Flight, 00-1-314-935-0014, provides periodic updates on Mr Fossett's journey. The official Website is at <http://uscom.wustl.edu/>



Fossett already holds balloon flight records



Steve Fossett's *Solo Spirit* heads over the Mississippi soon after lifting off from Busch Stadium in St. Louis, Missouri, on his attempt to fly around the world

Swiss adventurer casts his spell on orbiting partner

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

TOP British engineering, experienced balloonists, a dynasty of adventurers and a dose of hypnosis form the backbone of the challenge by *Breilting Orbiter 2*, which is waiting for the right conditions to lift off from the Alps.

Bertrand Piccard and Wim Verstraeten, *Orbiter's* crew, say that high-altitude jet-stream winds are unlikely to turn in their favour before Tuesday.

Their flight last year ended in near-disaster after fumes from a paraffin leak in the gondola's heating system forced them to ditch in the Mediterranean within hours of take-off from Chateau d'Oex. The gondola has been redesigned by Andy Elson, a British flight engineer, to limit the impact of minor failures such as the faulty Sp washer that ruined their last attempt. The pressurised cabin recently underwent successful testing in France.

Mr Elson, a record breaker in his own right with the first crossing of Mt Everest by balloon in 1991, is credited with the development of the special burners needed to fly at altitudes above 30,000ft.

Like two of the other main contenders, the silver-coloured balloon will be swept along at speeds of up to 125mph by winds in the northern hemisphere. The flight plan aims for a spectacular take-off from dawn. *Orbiter* will then head southeast towards Turkey and Afghanistan, cross the Gobi desert towards the Korean peninsula, the Pacific Ocean, the United States and return across the Atlantic.

The Swiss and Belgian pair have flown together across the Atlantic in a balloon before. Mr Piccard, a psychologist, used hypnosis to help his partner sleep during the 112-hour crossing. Mr Verstraeten has set several ballooning altitude records.

For the Swiss flier, it will also be a chance to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather, Auguste Piccard, who invented the stratospheric balloon and pressurised cabin, setting an altitude record in 1931. His father is known for a record at the other end of the scale: Jacques Piccard set the world's deep-sea diving record in a bathyscaphe, another family invention, at a depth of 35,316ft in the Pacific Ocean more than 35 years ago.



Bertrand Piccard, left, the Swiss balloonist, and his co-pilot, Wim Verstraeten, during final tests

Virgin boss wishes rival bon voyage

RICHARD BRANSON yesterday sent a message of good luck to Steve Fossett in his attempt to circumnavigate the world non-stop, but the Virgin chief warned his rival that he still expects to be the one to clinch the record.

A dislocated shoulder and a rather deflated hot-air balloon have not dampened the spirits of Mr Branson. He is confident that Mr Fossett will not be able to cope with the long hours and

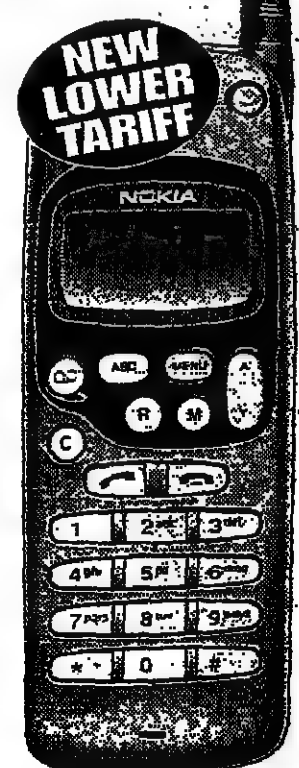
dangers of a non-stop solo voyage. Together with his copilot, Per Lindstrand and Rory McCarthy, Mr Branson is planning another attempt at the journey in the *Virgin Global Challenger* by January 18.

Will Whitehorn, a spokesman for Mr Branson, said: "Richard wishes him luck for his attempt but we still think we have the best technology to get around the world. He thinks that it is very

difficult to fly solo and manage to stay awake. There are so many things to deal with."

Mr Branson, who was humiliated when his balloon took off without him from Morocco last month, still says he is confident he will be the first to get the record. "The Virgin balloon is being rebuilt," said Mr Whitehorn. "With little sleep and less control, we think Fossett won't be able to manage it."

BEST EVER DEAL!



Ref: TIV0201

vodafone

- FREE PHILIPS DIGITAL ANSWERPHONE
- FREE CONNECTION WORTH £35
- FREE 6 MONTHS LINE RENTAL IN YEAR 1 WORTH £105
- FREE NOKIA PHONE WORTH £9.99
- FREE 1000 MINUTES OF CALLS PER MONTH WORTH £10.00
- FREE PORTABLE HANDS FREE KIT WORTH £45
- FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE WORTH £10.00
- FREE 3 MONTHS INSURANCE WORTH £12.37
- FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY
- 100 HOUR BATTERY
- PER SECOND BILLING

NOKIA 1611

- Latest Nokia GSM Phone
- 3.5 hours talk time
- Identifies incoming calls

OPEN: Mon-Thurs 9am-10pm • Fri-Sat 9am-10pm • Sun 9am-9pm
Have your credit card to hand and Dial-A-Phone now on Freephone
0800 00 00 77
24 Hours
DIAL-A-PHONE

Moi heads for easy victory in Kenya's chaotic elections

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN NAIROBI

PRESIDENT MOI was being tipped for an early victory in Kenya's general election last night. However, results giving him a strong showing in key areas were condemned as rigged and flawed by opposition candidates.

With more than half the votes counted last night, the 73-year-old President had a lead of more than 200,000 votes, polling about 1.5 million to the 1.3 million for his nearest rival, Mwai Kibaki, with other candidates trailing far behind. The opposition continued to put on a brave face but many observers said Mr Moi's victory was certain. "We believe that we shall win the ongoing elections despite all odds," said Mr Kibaki and the two other leading candidates, Raila Odinga and Michael Wamalwa, in a joint statement read at a news conference. There had been speculation that the conference would announce that the opposition was uniting behind one candidate, but in the end little was said and now it is probably too late.

To secure an outright victory Mr Moi needs the highest number of votes and at least 25 per cent of the vote in five of the eight provinces. Results last night showed that he had secured three provinces and was making a strong showing in key areas of the others.

Britain has condemned the conduct of the chaotic elections and opposition leaders have said that an outright victory by Mr Moi would not be acceptable to the people and could precipitate violence. Mr Odinga and Mr Kibaki have

claimed that the Electoral Commission is controlled by the security forces which helped to rig the ballot. Opposition parties are threatening to take to the streets in protest.

The warnings of potential conflict come as tensions remain high in many counting centres where opposition supporters, already suspicious of long delays and confusion during two days of voting, doubted that the results would reflect their wish for change.

Supporters of the ruling Kani party clashed with opposition party agents at a counting hall in Nairobi yesterday after presidential results were declared, showing that Mr Kibaki had received 500 more votes than Mr Moi. Kani supporters hurled chairs and shouted angrily as riot police stood by.

The tension has been heightened by conflicting official results from broadcasters and newspapers. The results have shown Mr Moi way ahead in his Rift Valley province, Kenya's most populous, with the opposition doing well in the Central province and western Kenya.

The polls have been dogged by irregularities, bribery and intimidation as well as by delays and confusion, prompting opposition candidates to suggest there can be no legitimacy for any government that emerges. But if, as expected, the final results show that Mr Moi has won himself another and final five-year term, the opposition will have to shoulder at least some of the blame for its failure to agree on a unity candidate.



Thomas Cook Offers

UP TO **15% OFF** OR **FREE INSURANCE** ON YOUR **FARAWAY SUMMER HOLIDAY**

FLORIDA MAY FROM **£382** JAMAICA MAY FROM **£499**

PLUS **A FREE PERSONAL STEREO WITH EVERY BOOKING**

Credit Card Booking Line

0990 777 555
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

With up to 15% off thousands of faraway summer holidays and at least 10% off all other overseas summer holidays, hurry down to your local Thomas Cook shop or book by phone or see **Texts** page 268.

SHOPS OPEN ON SUNDAYS
Thomas Cook
The nice surprise is the prices



All holidays subject to availability and supplements. All offers available for a limited period only, are not retrospective and may be withdrawn without notice. Discount/free insurance offer is applicable to selected Summer 98 overseas holidays, selected cruises and charter flights departing between 1/4/98 and 31/10/98. Discount subject to each traveller purchasing Thomas Cook recommended insurance at the time of booking. A typical premium for a Worldwide policy £18.35 for 5 days cover. Discount applies only to basic holiday/flight price and will be applied after deduction of any tour operator/insurance fees. Prices quoted are based on the Sun World Tropical Shores and Florida brochures are per person and are based on 2 adults sharing on a room only basis for 14 nights at Essential Florida. 17 nights all inclusive departing London Gatwick. Offers subject to the balance of the holiday being paid no later than 10 weeks before departure. Offers not available in Ireland. Free insurance applies to selected policies and relevant holidays with a value of over £200 per person and stays of up to 17 nights duration. Free insurance/Discount offer cannot be taken in conjunction with any other promotional offer unless otherwise stated. Free personal stereo will be given per booking on all beachfront overseas holidays and cruises departing 27/12/97 to 31/12/99, while stocks last. All offers become void in the event of cancellation of booking. See local store for full details of offers. Credit card and all major credit cards accepted. A handling charge of 1% applies to payment by credit/debit card, up to a maximum of £10 per transaction. Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm. To ensure quality customer service, calls to Thomas Cook Direct are recorded. The Thomas Cook Group Ltd, ASTA 20000 acting as agents for other ATOL holders.

A good foundation

HOT TIP

Change the colour of your favourite lipstick with Chanel's Levres Contrast Noir et Blanc, £22. Apply black over your lip colour to darken the shade and add white to lighten. It comes in the trademark Chanel black square box and has two matching slim lip brushes.

Objects of desire



■ Raspberry Cashmere camisole, £331, by Clements Ribeiro, (0171-409 7719). Last season Clements Ribeiro's nude embroidered tank was a sell-out before it appeared in the magazines. For summer this is the one to get. Buy it as soon as it comes into the shops.

■ Three-part prayer ring, £1,150, by Jess James, 3 Newburgh Street W1 (0171-437 0199). This ring is available for both men and women, in matt gold and platinum. It comes in the most exquisite polished round case and is very calming. It is interactive and allows you to fiddle with the moving panels on the ring without appearing nervous.



'I added my normal dose of eyeliner and lipstick and turned into a geisha'

Once had a friend called Violet who looked just like Dame Edith Sitwell. Like the poet, Violet lived up to her pointy Gothic looks with verve, swishing around the chilly courtyards and gloomy alleys of the city where we lived wearing yards of ghostly lace and trailing black velvet. To her mother, however, Violet's appearance was a source of dismay. The mother, in youth, had looked like Doris Day, which was what she considered a woman should look like. She was always trying to get Violet to cheer up her look — cut her hair, have some highlights done and a root perm to give it body. And what about some blusher, or a nice French manicure? On Violet's 30th birthday her mother put her foot down. "Violet," she said, "Youth is not on your side. Art must supply what nature no longer can."

What she had in mind was foundation — that beige glop, the wearing of which is a rite of passage into womanhood. It is a substance with which I, like Violet, have never really got to grips. This is partly for practical reasons — I never managed to find a foundation that didn't come up a garish orange when applied to the greenish pallor that is, even in perfect health, my natural colouring. But also, I never quite conquered a vague feeling of distaste at the notion that, were I to fall into a chap's arms and press my face to his heart, I might be in danger of leaving my complexion all over his waistcoat.

So while I took enthusiastically to every other sort of make-up, and would sooner leave off my drawers than my lipstick, the only help my skin gets is a bit of translucent powder. I love powder cosmetics; they are a perfect cross between a toy and a piece of jewellery.

Still, it is never too late to change one's look, and foundation technology has developed a good deal since my last experiments with orange goo. These days, foundations have high sun protection factors, to stop wrinkles from forming; and moisturisers, to treat the wrinkles that have already arrived; and light-diffusing particles, to distract attention from the wrinkles that are beyond help.

Nowadays they even make foundations for girls with green skin. So here, at long last, was my passport to womanhood, in the form of Estée Lauder's Enlighten in Liquid Pearl, with SPF 10. "Looks like nothing on. Covers like nothing else..." it said on the bottle. "Shake. Glide on with fingertips." I shook. Nothing happened. I shook harder. A splat of pale pink stuff shot out. I fielded it and glided, as instructed. Then I looked in the mirror.

The first surprise was that it was — subtly, but unmistakably — glittery. The second was that my features had disappeared. I looked like a seal pup in a snowstorm — heady eyes peering anxiously out of a blank expanse of frosty white. I added my normal dose of eyeliner and lipstick, and turned into a geisha — extremely glam, but unearthy. You wouldn't want to go out in daylight looking like that. I rang a more sophisticated friend for advice. "Everything's disappeared," I complained. "No Violet under-eye circles. No hollows under the cheekbones. I don't look like me." "Precisely," said my friend. "The point of foundation is to create a blank canvas."

So now, having got to this stage, I must paint in a new set of features, rather like those I have just blotted out, but better. And I must lay off the black eyeliner and bright lipstick unless I want to look like RuPaul plays Maria Callas.

An article in this month's *Vogue* explains the effect I should be aiming for: "The distinction between natural nude and chic nude," it says sternly "[is] obvious. It's the difference between a cup of instant and a delicious café au lait." It has to be said that for all my shading, sculpting and defining, my new *maquillage*, while reasonably chic, is anything but natural, and still, somehow, not quite me. Also, it takes 20 times longer to apply than a flick with a powder-puff. But clearly, I am just at the beginning of a long process of learning. Pass the peroxide.

SIX OF THE BEST

THE chances are that your skin is looking tired and dull after an exhausting party season. Deceive yourself and others by looking the picture of health with six of the best cover-ups. Their added moisturisers will give your skin a boost and, more importantly, will conceal any imperfections. For best results, foundations and tinted moisturisers should be applied to freshly cleansed skin. Apply them with your fingertips, using small sweeping movements, instead of a sponge. Sponges soak up too much foundation, causing you to run out quicker, and they can harbour bacteria that causes spots.



MAX FACTOR LASTING PERFORMANCE, £9.50

It was easy to apply. It looked slightly orange in the tube, but on application looked natural, although slightly heavy. After a few hours it didn't look like I had any make-up on. The packaging was okay but not particularly appealing. 6/10



BODY SHOP COLOURINGS, 4 COLOUR CORRECTOR TUBES, £2.65 each

Each tube corrects your skin in a different way, reducing redness, dullness and dark circles. I put them on under my foundation, and they do seem to work, although it is a rather lengthy procedure. Good value for money. 7/10



SHISEIDO ADVANCED PERFORMANCE COMPACT FOUNDATION, £25

Great packaging, with a sponge and mirror included but separate. Easy to apply — with wet sponge for thicker coverage and dry for light. A little goes a long way, so it was great value for money. My skin looked marvellous. 10/10 Available at selected department stores (0171-630 1515).



ESTÉE LAUDER FUTURIST AGE-RESISTING MAKE-UP WITH SPF 15, £24

A good moisturising foundation — but it should be used sparingly because it is rather thick. The pump-action dispenser does not allow you to control the amount released, so a lot is wasted. 5/10 At major department stores.



PRESCRIPTIVES VIRTUAL SKIN, £18.50

This was great. It felt smooth on my skin, leaving it glowing but looking natural. It also had a sweet smell and simple packaging. 8/10 Available at selective department stores nationwide (0171-408 6990).



OXYGEN SHEER MAKE-UP BY LANCASTER, £19.50

Slightly old-fashioned packaging — but an amazing product. It spreads easily, even on dry skin. Disappears into skin — but evens out redness, blemishes etc. 9/10

Main image: Photographer: Ryan Sullivan
Stylist: Deborah Brett
Hair: Cini Mahony for Shipton Leighton and Lowe
Make-up: Jochen Fuchs at Michaeljohn Management
Model: Avignon

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

THE SELFRIDGES SALE IS STILL ON

HUSBANDS PLEASE NOTE:
THERE'S A BAR OR RESTAURANT ON EVERY FLOOR.

Up to 60% off fashion and homeware. Plus an extra 10% off sale goods for our Gold Card holders on Sat 3 Jan: 9-6 pm & Sun 4 Jan: 12-6 pm.

SELFRIDGES

Flashmans need not apply

Three generations of Wykehamists tell Harry Stourton why they support boarding. Bill Frost hears why one Rugby pupil does not



FENN CHAPMAN, the public schoolboy who ran away from Rugby School, in Warwickshire, and took a charter flight to Barbados to review his life, is now back with his family and resolved to resume an academic career. His highly publicised disappearance brought the teenager instant celebrity and set Fleet Street on its tail.

The 16-year-old fled to the Caribbean in late November, having raised the furore by selling his stereo system and CD collection to friends, and returned in late December.

His mother, Christine, told *The Times* that the family had enjoyed Christmas at their home near Ilkley, Yorkshire. "Fenn is back and looking forward to life; he is fine after his time away and we are all very glad he has returned."

Mrs Chapman added that her son would "almost certainly" be returning to Rugby when the new term began and that the Christmas and new year holiday had been "great". Fenn was unavailable for comment.

In November he explained why he fled Rugby: "I'm just a teenager who needed to sort himself out — I don't think what I have done is exceptional."

"I hope I haven't let anyone down. My parents might have felt let down, though. Mum said she thought something like this might happen. If I hadn't gone I would have let myself down."

"I wasn't getting on at Rugby. I just didn't like it. I'm not saying it's Rugby in particular. I don't think I would send my children to public school."

"But it was more than that. I started thinking about my future: university, a job, buying a car, getting married, a mortgage and then dying. I thought there had to be something more than this and got away to think things through."

"GETTING out of the house at Rugby was the hardest part, but I worked out how to bypass the security system and left during the night."

He flew from Manchester to Barbados, where he was met by a beach artist he had befriended while on holiday during the summer.

"The first day was the hardest. I started to wonder what I was doing. But I phoned my parents and they were fine about it."

"I know what I want to do in life. I want to help people, perhaps in the field of psychology. I'm trying to sort out how to achieve that."



Above, 17-year-old Tom Radmore, who is in his final year at Winchester College. Top right, Guy Radmore, his grandfather, who left in 1937, and below, his father, Michael, who left in 1968

Harry Flashman still casts a long shadow over the popular perception of Britain's public schools. For many, the villainous and bullying archer of *Tom Brown's Schooldays* continues to typify the institutionalised sadism and absurdity of a privileged education.

However, much has changed in the past century or so: the image of archaic institutions riddled with homosexuality, cruelty, senseless rules and ludicrous traditions is at last being laid to rest. Currently 100,000 pupils are attending boarding schools, and the figure is rising all the time.

The boarding schools have been so discredited by the endurance of what they see as an inaccurate and damaging view that they have clubbed together to form the Boarding Education Alliance. The BEA is made up of 170 member schools lining up behind a campaign designed to "dispel outdated images of boarding and show the relevance of boarding to family life in the 1990s". It provides information on all facets of the boarding experience and includes "ready-made case studies".

Guy Radmore's memories of his schooldays are as clear now as when he left Winchester College 60 years ago: "Cold showers and beatings ...

nothing wrong with that." His family are stalwarts of the system, with three generations having attended the school. The eldest male Radmore, now 77, left in 1937; his son Michael, 47, in 1968. Seventeen years old and in his final year is his son Tom.

Very much the product of a bygone age, Guy Radmore, with his impeccable manners and upright carriage, says: "The way of life in our day didn't do us any harm. What I learnt at Winchester enabled me to take 30 men to war and bring them out at Dunkirk when I was only 19."

From what his grandson tells him, Mr Radmore thinks school life now is too free, and more comparable with university. "In my day it was a closed little society, and everyone was keen to conform. I only had two friends outside my house, let alone outside the school."

"Girls were strange animals. If the girls from St Swithun's came to our part of town, they were kept on the other side of the street."

He recalls rigid discipline, including confinement to school grounds for weeks, sometimes months, on end. The emphasis on religion was strong: chapel twice daily. "Sunday was the most appalling day, though — three services — and you had to wear a top hat and morning coat. We weren't allowed to throw a ball, swim or ride a bicycle, and for years afterwards I dreaded Sundays."

Canting were usually administered by prefects, imposed for misdemeanours as minor as forgetting to take your hat off while passing the war memorial. "Nobody minded getting beaten. It was quite an honour and known as a 'sporting arse'." However, there was no bullying and even less snobbery. "I never heard of anyone laughing at another boy because his parents weren't rich enough. We were all very happy there and had the most marvellous masters. They were all terrific characters. I believe our system produced splendid chaps. It taught you to take the knock and be part of society. These days boys tend to drift."

In 1963, when Michael Radmore arrived at Winchester, conditions were still as spartan: large, cold dormitories and lavatories without doors. Beating was less common, but fagging remained, with younger boys on call 14 hours a day. "Prefects would come into the hall and shout 'Sweat!'. The last boy to reach him would have to carry out the bidding."

However, by the late 1960s more liberal attitudes were filtering through. "We became outrageously scruffy, pushing the boundaries with illegalsuede shoes, kipper ties and

American button-down shirts."

In deference to the times, the strict routine was becoming less rigid, with the boys allowed to move freely inside an eight-mile radius of the school. Intimate relations with the opposite sex were less of a taboo. For many boys the first social contact with a girl of their age was at the house dance. "Those were pretty tepid affairs with no booze and everyone rather shy," says Michael.

And homosexuality? "There were certainly a few guys who were said to be that way, and a couple were very effeminate. I never came across it myself."

Like his father, Michael went straight from Winchester into the Army and has no doubts about the benefits of a public-school education. "It encouraged self-reliance and individuality, to be considerate and aware of other people."

It was not an unkind place. We were all happy."

In 1993 Michael's son Tom arrived at Winchester. I met him after work — a holiday job in the local post office — and found his account of Winchester to be in stark contrast to that of his father and grandfather. The

medieval edifice may have altered little in Winchester's 600-year history but within its flint and stone walls lies a school apparently reformed and reinvented, modern and caring, worthy of Tony Blair's "new Britain". Out are cold dormitories, fagging and Victorian disciplines; in are comfortable bedsits, the Internet, first names and socials with St Swithun's.

Everyone is on first-name terms. Each senior has two juniors under him whom he must look after. When classes are over, pupils change into jeans, sweatshirts and trainers for the multitude of extra-curricular activities. Each house has a computer room connected to the Internet, and some pupils have the system wired through to their own studies and laptops.

"There's no need to go and get my prep from the department noticeboard any more. I get sent it by e-mail," says Tom. "If I have questions I can message my tutor on e-mail."

If pupils are away from their terminals, the tutors can contact them on pagers. Every other boy has one. "If you're out of contact — say away playing in a match — and a friend or housemaster needs to contact you urgently, he can."

Today Winchester has the closest of relationships with St Swithun's. As well as co-hosting dinners and dances where those participating are entitled to three or four glasses

of wine, many plays and concerts are a joint effort. Interaction is encouraged, and Tom has a steady girlfriend there whom he often meets in town for a meal or the cinema.

Winchester College boys are prepared early for the pitfalls of modern living, he says. "The teachers take you through the perils of drugs, sex and rock 'n' roll in a series of classes in your second year."

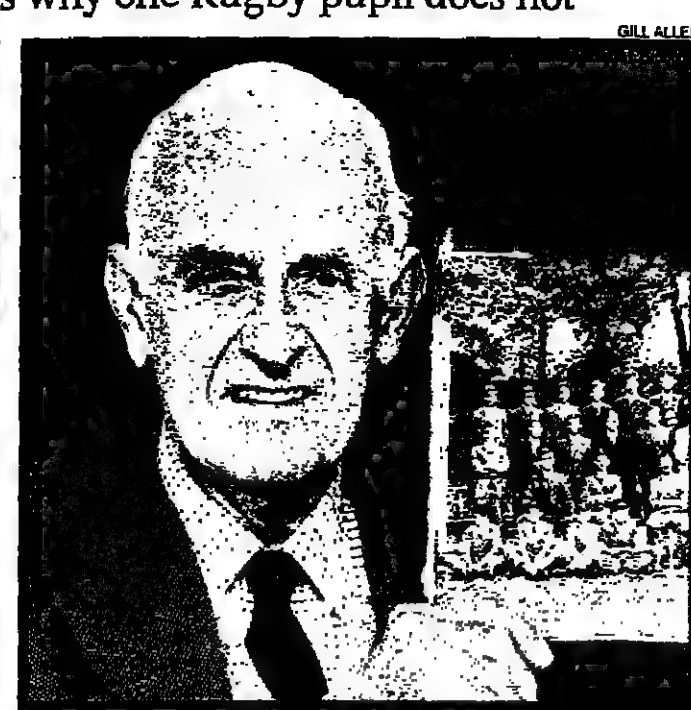
They tell you what to do with a condom and about the dangers of LSD and other drugs."

Tom's grandfather remembers his parents visiting the school only on a handful of occasions, and even then his mother was forbidden to enter his house. These days there are regular meetings.

Homosexuality? "You occasionally hear rumours, but nothing serious," says Tom.

And drugs? "It is not widespread, but like anywhere else, it does happen. Guys do get busted occasionally and they are usually straight out, no questions asked. But the worst thing you can do for the reputation of your house is to have bullying. Inevitably you get some verbal, but you get that anywhere."

Tom's final preparation for life outside seems more than strange to his father and grandfather — authorised evening visits to the pub. Providing the pupil is 18 and has informed his housemaster, permission is readily granted. But what if you want to take a friend who is 17? "Then he says he's coming along for a meal, and there is a bit of nudge-nudge, wink-wink. Your housemaster knows he'll probably have a drink."



Breathing Space.

(Don't take it for granted)



We don't. Help us keep Britain's breathing spaces open. Footpaths and coastline, high places, heaths and woodland. For walkers.

For over 60 years, THE RAMBLERS' lobbying and vigilance have been achieving wide-ranging rights of access to some of our most beautiful countryside.

Go for a walk. Take a breather from our crowded world. Think about the future; invest in THE RAMBLERS.

Join us.

A modest subscription brings you — FREE — the essential Yearbook, full of outdoor information (over 300 pages, over 3000 places to visit, £4.99 in bookshops), the quarterly magazine, *Rambling Today*, membership of one of our 400 local groups. Many outdoor equipment shops offer discounts.

Mr/Ms/Mrs/Ms
Address
Postcode
Date of birth
Tick box for membership type required
☐ Ordinary £17 ☐ Reduced £8.50
☐ Family/Group £21 ☐ Joint reduced £10.50 (for two adults of same address)
Under 18 (student/retired/disabled/senior)
Donation £
I enclose £
☐ We occasionally exchange names for use only with other organisations which may interest you. Tick if you would prefer to be excluded.

Working for walkers
1-5 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2JL. Tel: 0171 339 8500 TMB28

THE SUNDAY TIMES

NAKED LUNCH

Start the year feeling great with our 30-day detox programme. Style, this weekend



THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Alan Coren



Place your hand upon this Jeffrey Archer and convert slowly after me

I had been curled up here for some time, in this corner of my terminally Yuletide living-room, trembling fitfully, like an ineptly nesting dromedary, among the un-declared mounds of wrapping paper, cracker shards, busted tree-balls, nutshells, needles, gnawed bones, bottles, torn crowns, stale pies, buckled squeakers and all the other post-festive detritus, and I had been racking the throbbing remnants of my brain, on the last day of 1997, in an effort to come up with something to offer my readers which might just put a spring in their step for the beginning of 1998, when the tree fell over. It fell over because my leg went suddenly to sleep — a boon which had managed to elude the numbness, my foot came up against the tree-light wire, and, even before the fairy had hit the floor, the idea for this column came to me.

I knew what I would offer my readers for 1998. I would offer them the chance to get out of Christmas for good. I would offer them a brief rundown, based on my wide knowledge of comparative religion, on a few other faiths to which they might sensibly convert, to avoid all this.

Judaism has considerable appeal. The soup is good, and you can keep your hat on indoors, thereby enjoying a substantial saving on fuel costs. Also, books are read back to front, which means that you do not have to plough through the whole of the new Jeffrey Archer to find out what happens. The main drawback to Judaism is that you will be expected to forgo lobster thermidor, tell at least three new jokes a week, and support Tottenham Hotspur.

Islam may suit you even better than Judaism, in that if you don't want to read the new Jeffrey Archer at all, you can not only burn it, you can apply to have him shot. Furthermore, you will be in a position to take advantage of whatever you think polygamy may have to offer, although I should not advise this for anyone who has difficulty remembering anniversaries. The main drawback to Islam is that you are required to take your shoes off when entering a mosque. If it is a big mosque, it may take you all day to find them again.

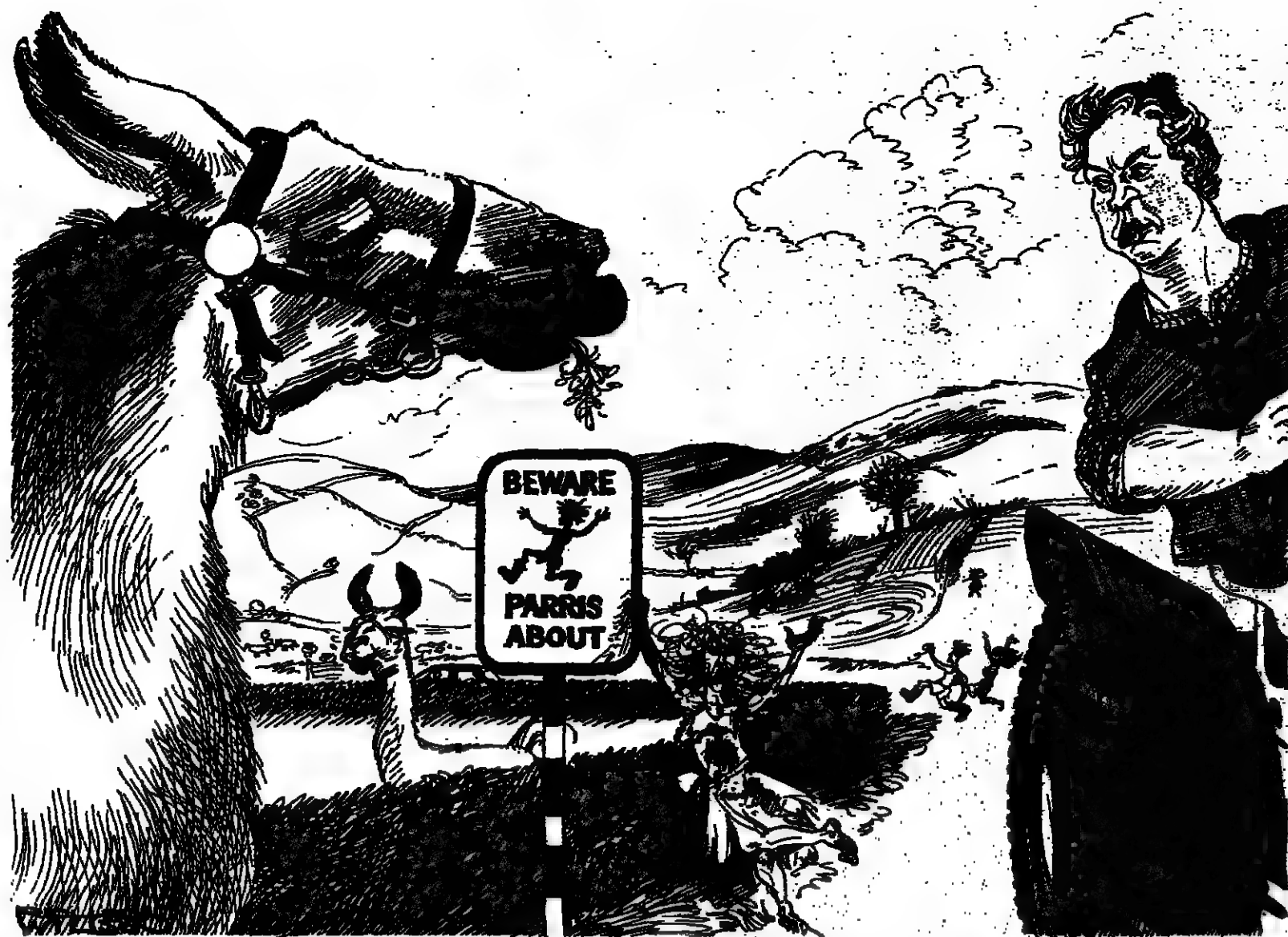
Buddhism is unquestionably the religion to go for if you are bald. Nobody will ever know. You can also spend the entire day walking up and down Oxford Street without having to buy anything. Moreover, the principle of reincarnation is very attractive. You could come back with a full head of hair, or, with even better luck, as the Sultan of Brunei or Bill Gates. But then again, you could come back as Jeffrey Archer.

Hinduism, likewise, has both major pros and cons. You do not have to find your own wife, which will save you a small fortune in flowers, perfume, chocolates and jewellery, but you have to stay open until midnight, all week, because you can never tell when a non-Hindu might want to come in and buy flowers, perfume, chocolates and jewellery. You may also have to stock the new Jeffrey Archer, if it looks like being a goer.

Shinto will save you a packet on furniture and crockery. You sit on a tiny mat and eat from a tiny bowl. Your wife sits behind a screen, with your other robe, and will run out with it, silently, if you spill anything from the tiny bowl. The main drawback with Shinto is that, if things don't work out, you will be expected to dismember yourself. However, since you do not own a bookshelf, nobody will ever give you the new Jeffrey Archer.

So there you are. Bags of choice. And remember, should you prefer to remain Christian after all but want to take no further part in the festive hokum, that the Mormons are always on the lookout for new recruits. They are a nice crowd, but there is one drawback: you will have to spend Christmas going from door to door in a smart blue suit with a permanent grin on your face, telling everyone you meet about this wonderful book of yours. You will thus run the constant risk of being mistaken for Jeffrey Archer.

Philip Howard's column will appear tomorrow.



The great llama roundup

My two refugees from the Andes go sightseeing in the Peaks — and I earn an even greater reputation for eccentricity

Just after dawn a few Sundays ago I was upstairs sleeping soundly in Derbyshire. Through my dreams came a doorknock. I staggered to the window. At the door beneath was a stranger. "What is it?" I shouted.

"Your llamas are out. They're on the road."

He was driving away before I had time to ask which road. Dazed, I pulled some clothes on randomly. "The llamas are out," I called outside my friend's bedroom door.

"What?" she groaned.

"Escaped. Gone. On the road. Quick, dress. We must find them."

The llamas are recent arrivals. Some days before, Lesley and Imp had been introduced to the paddock whose walls and fences were supposed to be boundaries to their new life. But, as Anne Adams has discovered, adolescent girls crave adventure. Their gate, which I had left shut but unsecured, was ajar. They had seemed so content in their pasture, so friendly, so unwaveringly interested in the next handful of delicious goat-mixture, that it had not occurred to me they might wish to roam.

Within minutes I was at the end of the drive, where the little metal road passes my gate. My friend (who hates to be named in newspapers) was crashing around in the barn fetching halter-ropes and goat-mixture. I stood impatient at the gate — the worst fears flashing through my imagination. Might they have munchered a sprig of deadly yew tree as they passed? Which way had they gone, left or right? There are so many blind corners on the lanes, people drive so fast, and these llamas know nothing about traffic and are ignorant of the Highway Code... it was too dreadful to contemplate. The last thing a driver expects, flying round a bend at dawn on a December morning in Derbyshire is llamas on the road.

The five minutes before my friend arrived seemed an eternity. She took the car and drove off to the right. I turned left and ran down the hill, bellowing "Lesley! Imp!" Several startled sheep looked up from their grazing. Their expressions declared: "Well, if you will keep llamas, for heaven's sake! Try sheep next time. We're less adventurous, cheaper and British. Those girls are probably looking for Chile."

I ran about a mile, calling. By now I could see the whole hillside — no llamas — and my friend driving back towards me. She had gone two miles the other way. No llamas there, either. "Why don't we make a circuit," she said, "around to

Yougha, then back in a loop. We might meet them coming the other way — towards Yougha."

She and I drove slowly round the lanes, shouting "Lesley! Imp!" from the car windows. Our behaviour seemed to surprise those we encountered. The problem being that if one stopped to explain, this did not lessen the surprise. I was unshaven, distinctly dishevelled and had pulled on the nearest torn vest. I wore wellington boots. My friend, who has an Italian accent, looked equally dishevelled. Have you tried drawing up beside isolated pedestrians at 8 o'clock on an English Sunday morning, wind-

ing down your window and inquiring, with your hair standing on end, and in an Italian accent: "Did you see a couple of llamas on the road?" You would be amused by the responses.

"Did two llamas pass this way?" my friend asked one lady, walking her dog.

"No," (pause) "I think I would have noticed."

"Have you seen our llamas?" I asked a farmer's son, who had pulled his tractor up next to us.

"No," he replied; then, perhaps fearing this sounded curt, "how big are they?" I stuck an arm out to indicate height. "No," he said, "Definitely not."

I suspect he then panicked at the sight of the pair of us, wild-eyed and partially dressed. Terrified he might be about to give him our phone number, he called from his departing tractor: "Tl, or, drop you a line if I see them."

In Yougha, there was not a soul about. We turned into the lane which leads back past my house and began the disconsolate journey home. Had my llamas been rustled? Is there much llama-rustling in Derbyshire?

"Look!" shouted my friend, "over there!"

Just inside a farm gate, in a grassy field, grazing peacefully, both girls lifted their ears in interrogative fashion like furry antennae, as llamas do. Lesley's

furrowed brow bore a "fancy seeing you here" expression.

We walked towards them. They mimed towards us. A llama is incapable of remorse. Their faces said: "Is it time to go home now? What fun we've had! How do you like our new field? They had walked two miles and chosen the first open gate. Lesley, the more communicative of the pair, hummed, as llamas do, Imp kept her distance.

They would not accept their halter-ropes. Both approached tentatively for goat-mixture, then shied away as we tried to clip rope to halter. They were exhilarated by their adventure. Llama drama is unusual in their routine lives, and they were savouring their hour of freedom. The whole Peak District was their

Antler.

But they really did want to come home. Though unwilling to follow, so I trotted on ahead, my gumboots clumping up the lane, the llamas trotted behind; and my friend brought up the rear in the car, tooting politely when the girls decided to investigate patches of weeds by the roadside. We must have looked an amusing caravan.

As we passed along the lane I prayed we were not observed. There is a danger I shall come to be regarded locally as mad. My mind went back to an unfortunate incident some time ago, when I was away in South America and friends asked to use my house for a week's holiday. They decided to organise one of those "murder-hunt weekends" where the party game goes on for days.

They decided to play it in drag. The men dressed as girls, the women as men. Apparently things had gone quite wild on Saturday evening, and spilled over into the surrounding fields, where a suspect was being sought. One of my friends, in full evening gown, had got her stiletto stuck in the bog just below the spring from which we draw our water.

Because, years ago, my name was once found on an IRA hit-list, the

Derbyshire constabulary is kind enough to keep an eye on my property, and occasionally pop in to see all is well. They chose this moment to make one of their calls. According to one of the troopers — caught in miscalculation at midnight in the headlights of a patrol car, his lipstick smeared and frock muddy, waving a high-heeled shoe in one hand, his other shoe and foot stuck fast in the mud — the faces of the two constables suggested something close to panic. "They asked, if everything was OK," he told me, "and we said 'Just fine' and they drove off. Rather fast."

"Did you explain that I was in South America?"

"Yes, but they didn't seem to be taking much in."

Ever since a former Chief Inspector told me about (and named) one of my constituents found tied to a bed at coffee-break time in the morning, a male friend who was not her husband, dressed in a rubber Spiderman's outfit, unconscious on the floor with a broken ankle, having leapt from the top of the wardrobe and missed the bed, I have cherished few illusions about confidentiality within the county constabulary. So I had no great hopes of the drag party story remaining between the four walls of the Bakewell police station, and no hope at all that anybody new remembers I was in South America at the time.

And now this. As I trotted along the lane, two llamas miming behind and an Italian lady in a dilapidated old VW Golf tooting her horn, it did strike me that an unfair picture of this columnist could be beginning to form in local minds.

Lesley, Imp, my friend and I, reached home: I breathed, the llamas as fresh as daisies. Imp trotted straight into their horse field: Lesley — before I could stop her — nibbled a quick spray of yew (no ill-effects) in passing. We closed the gate. Imp placed her nose under the bar, then lifted the gate up and forward, demonstrating how the break-out had been accomplished.

Three hours later I was at a pre-hitch drinks party near another village. "I hear your llamas were out," said our host. "What's this about your llamas escaping?" said someone who lives on the other side of the county. "I hear your llamas were out," said a Bakewell solicitor friend. He is married to a detective in the Derbyshire constabulary.

So, reader, you might as well know too. My llamas were out.

Matthen Parris

Derbyshire constabulary is kind enough to keep an eye on my property, and occasionally pop in to see all is well.

They chose this moment to make one of their calls. According to one of the troopers — caught in miscalculation at midnight in the headlights of a patrol car, his lipstick smeared and frock muddy, waving a high-heeled shoe in one hand, his other shoe and foot stuck fast in the mud — the faces of the two constables suggested something close to panic. "They asked, if everything was OK," he told me, "and we said 'Just fine' and they drove off. Rather fast."

"Did you explain that I was in South America?"

"Yes, but they didn't seem to be taking much in."

Ever since a former Chief Inspector told me about (and named) one of my constituents found tied to a bed at coffee-break time in the morning, a male friend who was not her husband, dressed in a rubber Spiderman's outfit, unconscious on the floor with a broken ankle, having leapt from the top of the wardrobe and missed the bed, I have cherished few illusions about confidentiality within the county constabulary. So I had no great hopes of the drag party story remaining between the four walls of the Bakewell police station, and no hope at all that anybody new remembers I was in South America at the time.

And now this. As I trotted along the lane, two llamas miming behind and an Italian lady in a dilapidated old VW Golf tooting her horn, it did strike me that an unfair picture of this columnist could be beginning to form in local minds.

Lesley, Imp, my friend and I, reached home: I breathed, the llamas as fresh as daisies. Imp trotted straight into their horse field: Lesley — before I could stop her — nibbled a quick spray of yew (no ill-effects) in passing. We closed the gate. Imp placed her nose under the bar, then lifted the gate up and forward, demonstrating how the break-out had been accomplished.

Three hours later I was at a pre-hitch drinks party near another village. "I hear your llamas were out," said our host. "What's this about your llamas escaping?" said someone who lives on the other side of the county. "I hear your llamas were out," said a Bakewell solicitor friend. He is married to a detective in the Derbyshire constabulary.

So, reader, you might as well know too. My llamas were out.

Poison pen

QUITE unlike these jontings, James Lees-Milne's diaries were not always generous in their evaluation of others. So friends of the late National Trust grandee may be alarmed to learn that just before his death on Sunday, he lodged his final batch of diaries with his publisher. His scabrous observations, penned either side of the war, noted, for instance, that Colonel Pemberton was "a fiendish old imbecile", Cyril Connolly was "lumpish, bad-mannered and as bored with me as I was with him", while Evelyn Waugh was "the nastiest-tempered man in England". He was, to be blunt, a snob. Of class distinctions, he wrote: "I love them and hope they endure for ever."

The volumes started appearing in the 1970s, and the last instalment will cover the angry reaction to his scribbles. But I gather that this, as a step to the offended, he doctored the manuscript to remove a few of the more strident passages. "It may have had some doctored, I won't say castrated," says his old friend John Summerson Smith, the respected bibliophile. "He became more cautious in later life, having experienced the reactions of people such as Lady Dashwood to his earlier diaries."

Friends at Brooks's where he was a member for 60 of his 89 years, will read the diaries with cautious interest — he often regaled club-regulators with anecdotes, including the time he saw Elgar pick up the phone to talk to his dogs.



Lees-Milne; Waugh

● SIR Michael Gambon, freshly knighted, reportedly has robust views on the age of some of his audiences. Sir Richard Eyre tells a charming tale about what he calls the biggest failure of his time at the National Theatre — his rather grey clientele. Gambon, the star of Eyre's production of *Skyline*, apparently said he wanted to walk to the front of the stage and tell the audience that the play did not have sex any more. Eyre adds: "I would stand at the back... and



there wasn't a man in the audience with a full head of hair."

Ideal gnome

AN UNKIND joke, possibly being told by Gordon Brown at his new year celebrations (but told to me by a former Tory minister), Snow White, Tom Thumb and Quasimodo fall into conversation. "I suppose I am the most beautiful person in the world," says Snow White. "Yes, and I must be the smallest," adds Tom. "And I," concludes Quasimodo, "must be the ugliest." Snow White suggests that the trio trip down to Guinness Book of Records HQ for confirmation. After doing so, she emerges beaming. "It's official. I am the most beautiful girl in the world," Tom Thumb follows. "I am the smallest," it's confirmed. Quasimodo emerges looking sad and

cross: "Who is this Robin Cook bloke, anyway? How cruel."

● DRINKERS at the Punter pub where Elton John began his plinking 30 years ago are indifferent to his elevation. One Eddie Edwards remembers playing darts while Elton tinkled the ivories: "We told him to shut up — only not so politely."

Sean whose?

THERE are shades of J.R. Hartley in the approach of Sean Hughes — a comedian, apparently — who



"So far, so good."

has just produced his first work of fiction, *The Detainees* is a seamy tale of two schoolfriends falling out in drug-ridden Dublin backstreets. But he seems a little sensitive about the reaction to his effort. A familiar-looking figure was seen popping into a bookshop in North London, asking if they had any Sean Hughes books. "Who?" asked the assistant. "Sean Hughes, the novelist," responded the earnest young man. "Nope." Within the hour, the shop received a call from the publishers offering to send round some copies.

● AMBASSADORS were not like this in Lord Palmerston's day. Our men in Lisbon, Roger Westbrook, unveiled designs for the UK pavilion at the Expo-98 trade fair recently and gave this pledge: "We are going to slightly lift the hem of our dress, show our knees and perhaps a flash of thighs." Would the available People's Ambassador ever consider performing in pantomime?

Jones the spin

THE sultry presence of Catherine Zeta Jones has boosted the campaign to site the Welsh Assembly in Swansea. The *Darling Buds of May* flower has a challenging role — charming the mysterious Ren Davies into choosing her home



town ever eager suitors from Cardiff. Alan Williams, the Swansea West MP, is coaching her in the art of political persuasion: "She is a Swansea girl who has been supportive of her home city." She made her debut at the Swansea Guildhall, where she told local dignitaries: "It would be a wonderful boost for Swansea if the Assembly were to come here." Before she could expound on the technicalities of devolution, though, she was whisked away to the States for a well-deserved skiing holiday.

● THE first precipitates crisis. The second suggests a larger project of the devolution of power within England. The fixed relationship between the sun of the Crown-in-Parliament and the Earth of the electorate is now in deep shadow.

JASPER GERARD

Bonfire of the certainties

John Lloyd asks where the EU is taking us

TWO ways are being unchained in our political cosmos and we, together with new Labour, which is the inheritor of these chains, must live through the consequences. These are likely to be dizzying but in the messages we have lobbed at the politicians, we ourselves have been proponents of the moves and we should at least recognise what we have done.

The first, and most unequivocal, is the death of the socialist project within the Labour Party. The claim of conscience of Ken Coates and Hugh Kerr, the Labour members of the European Parliament who told *The Observer* at the beginning of this week that they could no longer live easily within new Labour, was poignant in its recognition that nothing — nothing — of what they had come into politics to achieve was to be discerned in new Labour.

They had come into politics to achieve socialism. That has not been on offer for some little while now; but at least there was a fight left on how much water should be added to the milk. Now the milk has all been spilled.

The second and less explicit move has been the challenge to parliamentary supremacy. The Scottish Parliament-to-be is the challenger here. The powers it takes to itself as its practice unfolds will answer the question of whether it will permanently chafe over its subordinate status in Westminster and in the end vote against it, or work successfully as a genuinely autonomous and representative focus of power.

The first precipitates crisis. The second suggests a larger project of the devolution of power within England. The fixed relationship between the sun of the Crown-in-Parliament and the Earth of the electorate is now in deep shadow.

The European Union could be a solvent for these clouded issues. As British today enters the first full day of its presidency of the EU, our country's role may be a critical one. Not in the vainglorious sense that new Labour has proposed: we cannot lead Europe, we have little credibility as a leader. But if our Government cannot lead Europe into a realisation of British virtues of dynamism, flexibility and open-mindedness, it might lead Britain into a stagnation, that the European project is not a Kafkaesque bureaucracy, from which there is no escape.

Europe offers to staunch the pain of the death of socialism by letting business be the border-free, monetarily stable, single-currency regime it wishes, in exchange for a preservation of systems of social justice. Business — polls show — seems to like Union more and more. If business wants Union so much, argue the social and Christian democrats of Europe, it should be prepared to ensure that welfare gains are not threatened — globalisation permitting, of course.

Europe also offers a route out of the struggle between the old capital and their ambitious regions, by proposing a capture of some of the capital's micro-economic power by EU institutions and devolution of much of the micro-management of the economy and society to regional centres or lower. If this is indeed the flow, we have a chance of resolving the festering problem of our constitution in a wider arena.

But vast contradictions loom, among which one in particular casts a long shadow. As the report of the Royal Institute of International Affairs Commission on Britain and Europe (published just before Christmas) puts it, the "imperative of ensuring EMU's success means that a variety of economic and political functions could be centralised fairly quickly."

Opposing this lie questions of legitimacy and diversity, increased by EU enlargement.

In his recent collection of essays, *The New Reasoning*, the political scientist David Marquand wrote that "member governments... would be blamed or praised in a monetary union unless it had an unidentifiable quality which could be blamed or praised instead... monetary union requires political union."

The essay was written 15 years ago. As Marquand remarks, life has changed in the intervening period.

Legitimacy is not just a British concern, though we have expressed it most forcefully. The textured debates at the Amsterdam Heads of Government Conference showed that Germany and France both now balk at some centralisation of national sovereignty. People have given some sort of assent to national parliaments, but as yet too little to a European one.

Britain has no better way out of this contradiction than anyone else. But it may be able to turn its innate scepticism of integration to some good use. In our quest to find a "third way" which is neither socialism nor the untrammelled market, in our groping for centres of authority other than Westminster, we may be able to provide a template for the emergence of political structures which can absorb the tensions of monetary union.

The real question, Marquand writes in another essay, "is how much diversity an emerging political union can stand without dissolving into its constituent parts." This Government has made it plain that it does not wish the EU to dissolve. It is thus stuck with seeing a political union emerge to balance a monetary one. The Marquand question will lead us into the next millennium.

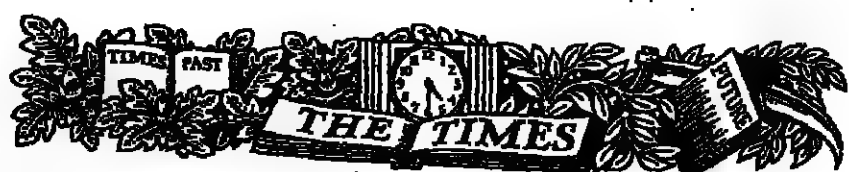
The author is associate editor of the *New Statesman*.

Bonfire
of the
certainties

John Lloyd

THE TIMES FRIDAY JANUARY 2 1998

17



EDGE OF TERROR

A time for brave leadership by Ulster's constitutional parties

This year was supposed to be the one in which Northern Ireland's peace train reached its destination. After the terrorist attack in north Belfast on New Year's Eve a settlement looks as distant as ever. The attack on the Clifton Tavern was another instalment of the Loyalist Volunteer Force's bloody revenge for the killing of their leader, Billy Wright in the Maze prison at the weekend. Horrifying in itself, the atrocity casts a black shadow on this new year.

Even before the killing there had been restive mutterings from within the ranks of those loyalists still observing an uneasy peace. They had already planned to review their ceasefire this weekend and one of their spokesmen had put the chances of a return to bloodshed at 50-50. Their trigger fingers had grown itchy at frustration with a peace process which they believe has been driven by republican demands. But any resumption of full-scale violence on their part will only play into the bloodiest republican hands.

It was in the full knowledge of the loyalists' mood that the INLA murdered Wright. The killers are unlikely to have embarked on their assassination without, at the very least, the tacit approval of IRA warlords. For many republicans a loyalist backlash would provide a pretext for their own dark ends. A significant faction within the IRA Army Council and many republican volunteers on the ground believe that their aims can be decisively advanced only by return to the long war. By their logic, loyalist killings provide them with a justification for unrelenting their Armalites. The IRA has suffered in the past when it has been seen to fail in its self-appointed duty to "protect" nationalist areas.

The escalation in loyalist violence is pushing the IRA and Northern Ireland, to the brink of the abyss. Only yesterday, the senior Sinn Féin negotiator, Gerry Kelly, claimed that the peace process was "shattered". Few are in a better position to know

what the IRA is thinking. Equally, there will be those within loyalist ranks who have made the hideous calculation that war-war is preferable to a process of jaw-jaw which they see as leading to the irretrievable detachment of Ulster from the rest of the United Kingdom. These irreconcilables have always tended to look on the talks through telescopic sights, but their analysis that the peace process is inimical to Unionist interests has spread beyond their ghettos.

The Government, and in particular the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, must accept some of the responsibility for disillusionment with the peace process among the wider pro-union majority. For long weeks now, respectable Unionist politicians have been articulating the pessimism first voiced by the parties which represent former loyalist paramilitaries. Some from those quarters have cried wolf before, but the killer's snarl is now audible to all.

A responsibility to try to avert further bloodshed rests with the Government. The reassertion of authority and political will by Dr Mowlam is needed to help to reassure the province's peaceable majority. The leaders of Ulster's constitutional parties also, however, have a part to play. They will not want to leave a vacuum in the province to be filled by blood. If they do not show how politics can provide Northern Ireland with hope then Ulster's narrow ground will be polluted by further violence.

Evidence now of brave thinking by the leaders of the SDLP and UUP, with an agreement satisfactory to both which can be seen to safeguard the interests of the majority of unionists and nationalists, could perhaps avert the slide back to mayhem. It may be too much to hope for, but this is not a time for false caution. John Hume and David Trimble can never hope to forestall those determined on violence but they can, at this dark hour, still assert that there is a better way.

MEAN STREETS

A French disease curable only by radical surgery

France has started the new year with a bang, not of celebration but of street riots. From Saint-Denis outside Paris to Moulhouse in the east, France's 3.1 million unemployed — too many of whom have never had a job — have taken to the streets, occupying unemployment offices and firing stones and Molotov cocktails at firemen and security forces. What began a few weeks ago as unrelated incidents are now being co-ordinated by the Communist-led CGT union and other leftist groups, who plan further national protests next week.

For the Government of Lionel Jospin, whose socialist-green-Communist coalition has led what seemed to be a charmed life since it was elected last June, these protests would be worrying enough in themselves. But at least their cause and effect are easily linked: dole queues in France have been lengthening for 22 years now, in good times as well as bad, mocking the pledges of successive governments to make jobs their absolute priority. With the French economy picking up, the numbers have at last begun to shrink, but too slowly to make a perceptible difference. The longer people are unemployed, the lower their benefits — and the poorer their job prospects. The wonder is that despair has been so long suppressed.

The New Year's Eve riots in Strasbourg, however, point to social tensions of a different and still more intractable order — for the gangs that overwhelmed hundreds of France's tough riot police to burn vehicles and wreck 32 bus shelters and other public buildings, including schools, were school-age, mostly children between 12 and 16 and some as young as ten. Strasbourg is a sociologist's conundrum, a relatively pros-

perous city which has developed a culture of youth violence; but this was the worst outbreak for several years and could, according to the police, have been controlled only by imposing a blanket curfew.

Violence on public transport, in schools and above all in no-hope suburbs now ranks with unemployment among the public's chief anxieties. President Chirac's new year address spoke grimly of disorder spinning out of control, where "every day new limits are broken beyond which our society will disintegrate". The prospect of dramatic gains for the extreme right-wing Front National in regional elections this March is on every politician's mind.

M Chirac exaggerates. France is neither an economic nor a social basket case. Some of its companies are world-class, its exports are booming, its per capita GNP is higher than Britain's and its public services, though too heavily subsidised, are a source of national pride. The country has just experienced an unexpectedly tranquil autumn, a tribute to M Jospin's ability to project an image of probity and personal modesty while breaking most of his wilder campaign promises. That calm has been deceptive.

M Jospin is a socialist in the pre-1980s mould who insists that his countrymen will not stand for *le libéralisme sauvage*, that the State must cushion its citizens against raw capitalism. But the laws of economics cannot be revoked by political fiat. France urgently needs to deregulate the labour market, curb state intervention and cut the enterprise-stifling burden of taxation. M Jospin has attempted a deft slalom between socialism and cautious liberalisation; but at some point, he was bound to hit his first post.

KINSEY'S WAY

The prophet without honour of postwar sexual liberation

Among the disguises the social critic may adopt, science is one of the most effective. Shielded by the carapace of hard data, all manner of daring, revolutionary things may be said. Nobody, perhaps, has so shamelessly exploited the opportunities as did Professor Alfred Kinsey, whose *Sexual Behaviour in the Human Male* was published 50 years ago. His statistics helped to usher in an age of sexual liberation which seems as distant in this post-Aids world as it must have looked from a Forties laboratory.

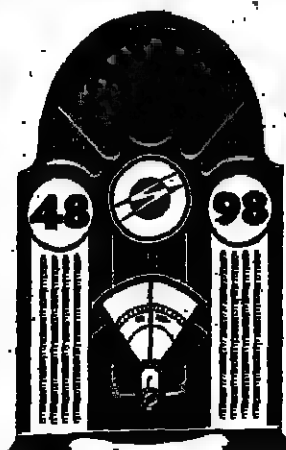
To the outside world, Kinsey was a simple scientist in pursuit of the truth. Reporters commented on his determination, but also on his humour and his happy family life. A master of manipulation, he flattered academics into treating his book as a serious contribution to the medical literature even as he was orchestrating the popular press into turning it into a massive best-seller. "Dr Kinsey has few conventional vices," *People* magazine gushed. "The professor does not swear and he does not smoke."

They knew nothing, of course, of his unconventional vices. Kinsey was a voyeur, a masochist, a homosexual who trawled public lavatories, and an employer who expected his all-male staff to engage in sex games with him. While sections in his book

derived from the experiences of a pedagogue who had managed to avoid detection and imprisonment. Kinsey's devoted wife was encouraged to have an affair with a young staff member. All this might not have mattered so much had his science been better. But his claim truly to have uncovered the sexual habits of 20th-century Americans was vitiated by his disregard for proper sampling methods. He was simply too interested in bizarre or extreme sexual behaviour to resist the temptation to seek out its practitioners.

The truth, as James H. Jones's masterly biography of Kinsey makes clear, is that Kinsey was not so much a scientist as a campaigner for greater sexual liberation who used science as his chosen vehicle. Seen in this light, he becomes a more attractive person: driven by demons, certainly, but with a strongly-felt purpose. By proclaiming the diversity of human sexual experience, he sought to bring within the pale homosexuals and other despised minorities.

It takes a special kind of person to immerse himself in other people's sex lives. If light is to be shed in dark places, it is unreasonable to expect the task to be undertaken by angels. The pity is that a better scientist could have achieved a more lasting result.



Devolution 'bad for British nation'

From Mr Alistair B. Cooke

Sir, Vernon Bogdanor ("The more we are together", December 22) makes devolution seem wholly unattractive, but nevertheless commends it on the ground that "Britain is by far the most centralised state in Western Europe" (more centralised than France?).

If excessive centralisation is the problem, why not concentrate on rebuilding local government as the Tories started to do in Scotland, without, as usual, managing to claim the credit for it?

No one has ever been able to demonstrate that people in England feel affinity with particular, clearly defined regions. Would those living in Oxford feel that government had improved and moved closer to them if decisions were taken by a South East regional body, one of nine proposed by Labour before the election? It is surely far better to work on the assumption that people identify with their local communities and with their country as a whole.

We will have devolution because Labour politicians, powerfully fortified by the memory of John Smith, have embraced it in the belief that no other way exists of dealing with opinion in Scotland. They will make a case for it in terms of improved government, but that case will never carry complete conviction.

If the so-called "peace process" in Northern Ireland collapses the Government's only realistic alternative policy there will be local government along power-sharing lines. For those who believe that devolution inevitably weakens the United Kingdom that prospect provides us with some hope in an otherwise bleak political season.

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR B. COOKE,
Flat 1,
68 St George's Square, SW1V 3QT,
December 24.

From Mr Jonathan Caine

Sir, Vernon Bogdanor is quite wrong to claim that "Northern Ireland had sought devolution to preserve the union with Britain". Until 1920 virtually all Unionists had vigorously resisted all attempts to impose devolution — or home rule — for any part of Ireland. Their aim, then as now, was to be governed on the basis of equal citizenship, from Westminster, as an integral part of the United Kingdom.

Only in the context of the settlement contained in the 1920 Government of Ireland Act did they reluctantly accept their own devolved Parliament — a concession which James Craig, the first Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, described as "the supreme sacrifice". It was not for a number of years that Unionists came to regard their own Parliament as a bulwark for the Union.

Professor Bogdanor is on stronger ground when he points out the problems Westminster will face in exercising its sovereign authority through the House of Commons managed to prologue Stormont in a day. The existence of Stormont effectively cut off Northern Ireland from playing any meaningful role in the government and politics of the United Kingdom for half a century.

Westminster politicians, content to let Stormont get on with it, understood little, and cared even less, about Northern Ireland's problems. This was to have disastrous consequences when Westminster was forced to become involved once again in 1969.

It is too early to predict the course of events in Scotland — and one should be wary of making too many direct comparisons with Ulster. The fact remains, however, that the one precedent for devolved government in the United Kingdom hardly encourages optimism. Rather, it reinforces the view that devolution will ultimately be bad for Scotland and bad for the British nation as a whole.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN CAINE
(Special adviser to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, 1991-95),
Friends of the Union,
PO Box 1261, London SW3 4JF,
December 29.

Naming names

From Mrs Sue Keane

Sir, Today, the country is divided into two categories — the media, who know the name of the Cabinet minister (letters, December 29, January 1), and the rest of us, who don't and don't want to. Perhaps you would all be kind enough to leave us in peace and allow the law to run its course.

Yours faithfully,
SUE KEANE,
84 Carlisle Mansions,
Carlisle Place, SW1P 1HZ,
January 1.

Legislation for life

From the Reverend Brian T. Sturtridge

Sir, If life is "a sexually transmitted terminal disease" (letter, December 29; see also letter, December 30) then death is a divinely given eternal healing.

Yours,
BRIAN T. STURTRIDGE,
The Parsonage, 3 Parsonage Street,
Dursley, Gloucestershire GL11 4BJ,
pianore@btinternet.com
December 29.

Measures to tax cars off the road

From Mr David Sawers

Sir, I cannot agree with the headline, "Charges fail to price drivers off the roads", to your report of December 29 on the trial traffic scheme in Leicester. A reduction of "only" 15 per cent in commuter journeys for a £3 charge is not unexpected and would produce a noticeable reduction in congestion.

All the evidence shows that drivers are reluctant to abandon their cars because they find the car so convenient a means of travel, and that high charges are required if the growth of car traffic is to be curbed. If that is the end which the Government and local authorities want, they must will the means.

Motorists will never happily abandon their cars for buses or bicycles, and politicians should not persuade themselves otherwise. Public transport can never match the convenience of the car for most short journeys. Attitudes to the car can only be changed if the cost of using a car is greatly increased, whether by raising the price of fuel, charging tolls, or increasing the cost of parking. Unpopularity among motorists is the inevitable price of success.

Politicians could mitigate this unpopularity by using the extra revenue from motorists to reduce other taxes, such as VAT or council tax.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SAWERS,
Director of Economics,
Department of Transport, 1976-83,
Crosby, 10 Seaview Avenue,
Angmering-on-Sea,
Littlehampton BN16 1PP,
December 29.

1997 workload of the Royal Family

From Mr Tim O'Donovan

Sir, I have conducted a survey of the official engagements carried out by the Royal Family during 1997, as reported in the Court Circular.

	A	B	C	D	E
The Queen	142	85	240	487	113
Duke of Edinburgh	136	125	23	284	248
Queen Mother	28	27	18	73	—
Prince of Wales	101	74	14	239	174
Duke of York	100	44	12	155	107
Prince Edward	37	39	11	87	96
Princess Royal	319	112	67	498	144
Princess Margaret	83	40	13	136	10
Duke of Gloucester	94	36	23	153	78
Duchess of Gloucester	90	30	8	128	41
Duke of Kent	111	40	17	168	66
Duchess of Kent	32	8	7	47	11
Princess Alexandra	75	23	13	111	65

A Official visits, opening ceremonies and other engagements
B Receptions, lunches, dinners and banquets
C Other engagements, including investitures, meetings attended and audiences given
D Engagements in UK
E Engagements on official overseas tours

The Royal Family's total of 3,820 official engagements at home and overseas is an increase of 108 over 1996. Twenty-five per cent of all UK engagements were carried out on behalf of charities — 273 of them by the Princess Royal, 138 by the Prince of Wales and 97 by the Duke of Edinburgh. Those promoting a smaller Royal Family should bear in mind the important contribution made by the Queen's sister and her cousins, with 41 per cent of their engagements in support of charities.

It must be remembered that, in addition to the duration of an engagement, there is also the time taken in preparation, whether it be a visit, investiture or speech. Except for Christmas Day and Easter Day, the Queen effectively never has a day off from the official red boxes which pursue her everywhere. The Queen Mother, now aged 97, actually increased the number of her engagements last year.

Yours faithfully,
TIM O'DONOVAN,
Mariners,
The Avenue,
Datchet, Berkshire SL3 9DH,
January 1.

'Selected' veg

From Mrs John Prebble

Sir, Could the catering industry, I wonder, be prevailed upon to adopt as a new year resolution the abolition of the "chef's selection of fresh vegetables" and allow us to choose our own, giving us a reasonably sized portion of a single item, plus potatoes cooked to our taste?

The "selection" is in most cases nothing more than a little bit of this and a little bit of that — whatever happens to be cheapest at the market that week — thrown together without thought and offered to diners no matter what they are eating. The subtle knowledge of which vegetable best complements which main dish is fast being lost in the restaurant world.

Yours sincerely,
JAN PREBBLE,
905 Nelson House,
Dolphin Square, SW1V 3PA,
December 29.

Prostate cancer

From Dr Richard Freeman

Sir, I am pleased and encouraged that you have chosen to focus attention on the work of the Institute of Cancer Research (Appeal, December 24; letter, December 10), and its timely focus on prostate cancer.

Medical research into male-specific diseases and conditions lags woefully behind that for women. Breast cancer receives 15 times more funding for research in the UK than prostate cancer — although within a few years cancer of the prostate will supplant heart disease as the number one killer of men. Occasional errors or oversights in the thorough and extensive nationwide screening programmes for breast or cervical cancer make headline news — but there is no organised screening for men whatsoever.

Likewise, hormone replacement therapy (HRT) is widely available for women, and used to excellent effect by many of middle age and beyond. But where is the clinical equivalent for men? Paradoxically, the absence of HRT for men is supposed to be due to the enhanced risk of prostate cancer. It is high time that society insisted on attending to the clinical needs of the other half of its population.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD FREEMAN,
101 Castle Street,
Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1BQ,
r.freeman@icr.ac.uk
December 29.

From the Campaigns Director of Friends of the Earth

Sir, We are surprised and concerned by the length of time it is taking to properly tackle Britain's increasing transport problems. With every discussion, review and debate the problem gets worse. What we need is action.

At the end of this month a Private Member's Bill, the Road Traffic Reduction Targets Bill, will be discussed in the Commons. Drafted by Friends of the Earth, Plaid Cymru and the Green Party, and introduced by the Plaid Cymru MP, Mr Cynog Dafis in response to the pollution, destruction and expense of too much road traffic, it is an anti-traffic Bill, not an anti-car Bill. If it is passed, the Government will be required to reduce road traffic levels by 5 per cent by 2005, and 10 per cent by 2010 (based on 1990 levels). To meet these targets the Government will have to adopt a raft of measures from encouraging more sensible car-use to investing in alternatives such as better public transport and improved facilities for cyclists and pedestrians.

The Bill has already attracted widespread support and is backed by over 300 MPs, around 100 national organisations and many thousands of individuals. What is now needed is government support, not more talk.

Yours faithfully,
TONY JUNEER,
Campaigns Director,
Friends of the Earth,
26-28 Underwood Street, NI,
nelf@foe.co.uk
January 1.

Inconsistencies in charity taxation

From the Director of Finance for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Sir, We welcome the Government's forthcoming review of charity taxation and hope that it will do something to redress the injustice and incoherence in the present system (letters, December 19).

It is unfair that charities are charged VAT on the resources we need to provide welfare and educational services when local authorities are not. The NSPCP is not asking for any special favours. In our submission to Gordon Brown we argued that to allow charities like us to compete fairly against local authorities to provide services we should also be charged a notional zero rate of VAT for these services. This would be preferable to treating charities as exceptional and asking for grants to reimburse the amount of irrecoverable VAT they incur.

We believe that the same principle of fairness should be applied to the thorny issue of charity shops. The time has come to accept that charity shops have developed far beyond their original concept of an outlet, often temporary, for the sale of donated goods. Small high street businesses have reason for complaint if permanent gift shops, selling new purchased goods, are trading in direct competition.

We propose that rates relief should be given only to shops that operate as true charity shops, dealing primarily in donated or second-hand goods and those unique to the charity concerned. Rates relief for genuinely charitable premises should not be jeopardised by shops competing unfairly.

By working with the voluntary sector we hope the Government will find a way to end these inconsistencies.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GRAHAM,
Director of Finance,
The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children,
42 Curtain Road, EC3A 3NH,
December 29.

Fifty years on

From Mr Jack Shapiro

Sir, Your brilliant analysis of the past 50 years, "History is now" (leading article, December 26), cannot disguise the fact that all the changes made by the Atlee Government with its landslide majority left Britain with 10 per cent of the population owning 90 per cent of the nation's assets.

The current landslide majority, for all its pretensions, has not put forward one single policy that will change that ratio. Until there is a fundamental change, unemployment, homelessness and the other ills of society will not even begin to be addressed. We still spend far too much on destruction (defence) and far too little on health and education.

Hopefully, the next 50 years will bring about the changes that will enable your leader in 2048 to say that these ills are no longer with us.

Sincerely,
JACK SHAPIRO,
100 Brim Hill, N2 0EY,
December 26.

That's entertainment?

From Mr Peter Brook

Sir, I see that the Independent Television Commission decided in October that the Eurotica Rendez-Vous satellite channel was an "unsuitable channel under broadcasting rules and that the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary is now to seek a banning order against it (report, December 31). The report goes on to mention the launch of the Gay TV satellite channel on January 6, which promises "the very raunchiest in gay entertainment".

Am I missing something here?

Yours faithfully,
P. I. D. BROOK,
101 Portland Street,
Southport, Lancashire PR8 6QZ,
pid@compuserve.com
December 31.

Plastic padding

From Mr David Lewis

Sir, Mr Philip Smith, commenting on the 35 plastic cards in his wallet (letter, December 31), asks where will it all end? If his spending habits are as exuberant as my own I suspect it will end in tears.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LEWIS,
50a Weldon Crescent,
Harrow HA1 1QR.

From Mr Martin Farrell

Sir, The answer for Mr Philip Smith is Carey Street.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN FARRELL,
Elliott & Company (solicitors),
8 Breans Building, EC4A 1EA.

From the Reverend Canon Clive Cohen

Sir, It will end, I presume, with his organ donor card.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE F. COHEN,
The Rectory, Winterslow,
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 1RE,
December 31.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. E-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

OBITUARIES

NANCY SILVER

Nancy Silver, Headmistress of Streatham Hill and Clapham High School, 1973-78, and of Putney High School, 1979-86, died on December 13 aged 73. She was born on January 2, 1924.

I t says everything about Nancy Silver that, as soon as she retired from being headmistress of Putney High School in 1986, she went straight back to being a teacher of the subject she loved, classics, for the next ten years, part-time or full-time, wherever in London any school needed her.

Such idealism and indifference to rank or status were in the blood. Her formidable mother, Mrs Dora Pym (even her daughter called her Mrs Pym) was a woman of powerful, radical intellect. In the Bristol University Department of Education, Mrs Pym had revolutionised ways of thinking about teaching Latin and Greek. *Alive On Men's Lips* (1952), a groundbreaking anthology covering 2,000 years of Latin literature in a single volume, was a typically inventive product of mother-and-daughter collaboration.

Nancy Silver never lost her mother's radicalism. She was an early member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, went on several Aldermaston marches and was downcast when the first cousin she so admired, Francis Pym, failed to scrap nuclear weapons when he was Defence Secretary.

As a headmistress and teacher, she believed passionately that children should learn to take decisions for themselves and she took an intense personal interest in the development of every child under her care. She was, above all, a woman of courage and principle. She never hesitated to speak her mind or to encourage others, even the youngest schoolchild, to do the same.

This could cost her dear. Exuding effortless authority in public, she freely admitted to being a bundle of nerves underneath it was a standing joke among her friends that



she relaxed on duty only once she had managed to spill her drink. The reason was that she knew that her sometimes unconventional way of doing things was not everyone's way. She could lay down the law with chilling authority when required, but could also pass things off with a liberal shrug of the shoulders. Not everyone always agreed with her judgments.

But she was entirely lacking in self-importance. She was not one for power-dressing, and legend has it that a schoolchild once fell asleep trying to count the number of sheep on a much-loved sweater of hers.

Pompous, pretentiousness

and grandiose occasions with the great and good served only to exasperate her or feed her tremendous sense of humour. She was, however, in deadly earnest about the moral, spiritual and intellectual welfare of every individual entrusted to her, and brooked no compromise there.

Nancy Silver was the eldest of the four children of Canon T. W. Pym, a residential canon of Southwark and Bristol Cathedrals and sometime chaplain of Balliol College, Oxford, and his wife Dora. Canon Pym died in 1945, but Nancy had assumed family burdens from an early age, finding welcome relief in the Marlborough School harvest-

ing camps she worked at during the summers of the 1940s.

After Clifton High School she experienced the wartime disruption of Lady Margaret Hall at Oxford, sitting classical Mods in 1944, filling in the next year with a diploma in education at Birmingham University, and taking Greats in 1947. She was a keen sportswoman, captained the Oxford University women's cricket XI and developed a passion for Australian cricket, missing no games during their postwar 1948 English tour ("Bradman!", she would exclaim, her eyes misting over).

She taught classics at Haberdashers' Aske's for three years, and in 1950 married Dr Christopher Silver, whom she had met through her medical brother. After they had raised their young family, she took up a post at Henrietta Barnett School, Hampstead Garden Suburb, in 1963; she later became the school's head of classics and deputy head.

In 1973, the Girls' Public Day School Trust appointed her headmistress of Streatham Hill and Clapham High School. This was a difficult period when the ending of the direct grant scheme threatened the very existence of the school. She inaugurated the bursaries' appeal without professional help, raised standards across the school, and saw the tide turn. In January 1979 she became headmistress of another of the trust's schools, Putney High School, where the participation of all — staff, pupils, and parents — in developing the school and her own enthusiastic approach to fundraising were the keys to her success.

Nancy Silver was not a woman to do things by halves. Even with a headmistress's workload, she threw herself into inspirational teaching of classics (she once taught a class on the stairs when no room was available), was president of the London Association of Classical Teachers, and taught regularly at, and one year directed, the Joint Association of Classical Teachers' Greek Summer School, which she regarded with the same fondness as those wartime harvest camps.

As a child she wrote plays which were constructed so that she could act the hero, villain and chief detective, and in later life she was always designing and making costumes for performances in school and out, amateur and professional, and took (and gave) immense pleasure in improving outfits for the end-of-course tragedies and comedies at the Greek Summer School ("Have you started the frogs yet? No, I'm still finishing the donkey").

This great-hearted, indomitable woman finally succumbed to cancer. She is survived by her husband and by four children.

MAJOR-GENERAL J. A. McILVENNA

Major-General J. A. McIlvenna, CB, Director of the Army Legal Corps, 1978-80, died on December 15 aged 78. He was born on December 10, 1919.



FIVE years after being demobilised at the end of the Second World War, during which he had fought his way across North-West Europe with the British infantry, Tony McIlvenna was back in uniform — this time as an army lawyer. He had had some experience of the work when, at the end of the fighting in Germany, his law degree had earned him a brief assignment on military legal affairs in the Rhineland.

Recommissioned in the Army Legal Services in 1950, he spent the next thirty years touring the world, advising and appearing in courts martial in Hong Kong, Aden, Egypt, Germany, Bahrain and Libya — from where his family had to be evacuated for safety reasons for fear of Arab reprisals after Suez.

John Antony McIlvenna was born in Darlington, the son of a civil engineer who was to become regional director of engineering for the London and North Eastern Railway (LNER). The McIlvennas had come originally from Ireland, moving from Ulster to the British mainland in the last century.

Tony McIlvenna's family moved to Newcastle upon Tyne, where he went to the Royal Grammar School, then to Hull — where he attended Hymers College — before returning finally to Darlington.

On leaving school McIlvenna became articled to a solicitor who was also the town clerk in Stockton-on-Tees. At the same time he read part-time for a law degree at King's College, Newcastle — then part of the University of Durham.

The War Office allowed him to take his degree in June 1940, before calling him up for war service, at first in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was commissioned

after a few months, however, and switched to the Durham Light Infantry (in which a number of his forebears had once served). He was in Iceland for a time before crossing the Channel after D-Day, as adjutant of the DLI's 10th battalion.

The battalion suffered so many casualties, however, that it was disbanded and McIlvenna was posted as a company commander to the South Wales Borderers. He was slightly wounded in one arm while clearing out a nest of Germans during the fighting in Holland, but went on to be mentioned in dispatches in the final few months of the war.

On his return to this country, McIlvenna attended a "crammer" before taking his law finals and being admitted as a solicitor in 1947. He then worked for a while in private practice in Wisbech.

Newly married, however, he felt the need to expand his income. He therefore returned to Germany to work as a civilian lawyer for the Control

Commission in the British Zone, before joining the Army Legal Services as a captain in 1950. McIlvenna rose steadily in rank until, in 1978, he was promoted major-general and made Director of the newly-formed Army Legal Corps — the reconstituted Army Legal Services. He retired in 1980.

McIlvenna was a conscientious, uncomplicated army lawyer who always took an optimistic view of life. In this respect he was sustained by his Christian faith. A devout Roman Catholic, he was chairman and director of the United Services Catholic Association from 1979 until 1981, when he became a vice-president. He was also a founder member of the Latin Mass Society, which regularly celebrates Mass in its traditional form. He relaxed by swimming, listening to music and above all by playing bridge.

Tony McIlvenna is survived by his German-born wife Hilde, a doctor specialising in psychiatry whom he met in Bonn at the end of the war, and by a son and a daughter.

FLOYD CRAMER

Floyd Cramer, country musician, died of cancer on December 31 aged 64. He was born on October 27, 1933.

FLOYD CRAMER was one of the most prolific and influential musicians in American country music. His distinctive "slipnote" piano playing style, artfully blending one note into the next, was a vital element in what became known as the "Nashville Sound", with which country performers reached a vast new non-specialist audience from the late 1950s onwards.

He recorded some 50 albums on his own account, many of them featuring songs he had written himself. But it was perhaps as a backing musician for more high-profile performers that he made his greatest impact. He was much in demand as a sideman throughout his career, moving effortlessly between country and pop in support of such stars as Elvis Presley (Cramer played piano on *Heartbreak Hotel*), Patsy Cline, Roy Orbison, the Everly Brothers, and even the actor Robert Mitchum (whom he accompanied on a version of *Live Ole Wine Drinker Me* in 1958).

Floyd Cramer was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, and grew up in Hutting, Arkansas. He taught himself to play the piano and, after leaving high school, became a regular on the *Louisiana Hayride* radio show, where he met musicians such as Jim Reeves, Hank Williams Sr, and the then unknown young Elvis.

He moved to Nashville in



1955, when the country music capital was beginning to live up to its self-proclaimed status as "Music City USA" and emerging as a serious rival to New York and Los Angeles as a centre of the recording industry. He signed a contract with the RCA label and worked tirelessly as a session musician, honing his skills on countless recordings.

Cramer's delicate touch and characteristic slurring of notes set his keyboard work apart from the more percussive country and western norm. In the late 1950s, when the guitarist and record producer Chet Atkins began to perfect the so-called "Nashville Sound", Cramer's smooth piano playing was an essential component of this more sophisticated style, helping to move country music away from its hillbilly roots and towards the mainstream of pop.

As well as featuring around the turn of the decade on a number of recordings which

typified the new sound, such as Don Gibson's great run of hits (*Oh Lonesome Me*, *I Can't Stop Loving You*, *Sweet Dreams*), Cramer had his first big solo success with *Last Date* in 1960. He subsequently made regular appearances in the US pop charts, notably with his vibrant *On the Rebound* and an atmospheric reading of Bob Dylan's classic *San Antonio Rose*.

For the rest of his career, Cramer maintained a work-rate rivalled only, perhaps, by his longstanding friend Chet Atkins. As well as accompanying many of the most successful performers of the day, he released albums of his own at the rate of one, two or even three a year. He appeared regularly at the Grand Ole Opry and on the Nashville-based television show *See How*. His composition *My Blue Eyes* won a Grammy award in 1979 for the best country instrumental.

In later years he pursued a more middle-of-the-road career, enjoying a hit with the tune *Time from the TV series* *Dallas* in 1980, for instance, and using direct television marketing to sell his album *Floyd Cramer Performs Your All-Time Favourites*. Such easy-listening projects were proof that many of Cramer's fans had grown older with him, but for a younger generation of musicians, too, he remained an inspiration. He endowed a number of music scholarships at East Tennessee State University.

Floyd Cramer is survived by his wife Mary and two daughters.

Donald MacRae, Martin White Professor of Sociology, University of London, died on December 23 aged 76. He was born on April 20, 1921.

DONALD MacRAE was a man of erudition, judgment and prodigious memory, whose contribution to the university world was, in a way, made by his presence in it and the range of reference his knowledge represented. He exercised influence on a generation of sociologists through conversation, sometimes of course, during tutorials, but just as often in "the daily walk of the mind's business". To him the university was less an administered entity than a self-governing fraternity of scholars in pursuit of understanding.

His own speciality was the historical development of our understanding of "the social". He pursued a humane vision centred on the sociological classics and offered intellectual tutelage and support to students unattracted by either positivism or Marxism. In particular, he gave pioneering direction to the sociology of religion, numbering among his graduate students Bryan Wilson and John Peel.

Donald Gunn MacRae was born near Glasgow, and after a rather lonely childhood largely spent roaming his grandfather's library on Skye — his father, an engineer, was often abroad, his mother a teacher and scholar of Celtic languages — he attended Glasgow High School before

PROFESSOR DONALD MacRAE

going, in 1938, to read history at Glasgow University. From there he went to Balliol in 1943 as MacLeod Scholar and Domus Exhibitioner, reading PPE and taking a starred first in 1945.

Almost immediately he joined the sociology department at the LSE, where he stayed throughout his career, apart from a year as lecturer in sociology at Oxford in 1949. He became Reader in 1954, and Professor in 1961, succeeding David Glass in the Martin White chair.

His main publications were *Ideology and Society* (1960); *The World of J.B. Priestley* (1967); an edition with introduction of Herbert Spencer's *The Man versus the State* (1969); *Agnes and Stages* (1973); and *Max Weber* (1974). It was said that he never completed his projected volumes on the history of his subject.

Apart from periods at University College, Gold Coast (as it then was), and at Berkeley, Stanford and Witwatersrand Universities, MacRae involved himself in numerous activities, generally of a curative kind. These included the Gaiskill Commission of Inquiry into Advertising, 1962-66; the Archbishop of Canterbury's Group on Divorce Law, 1964-66; and the New York-based International Council on the Future of the University, 1973-82. He was also chairman of the arts and social studies committee of the Council for National Academic Awards up to 1978.

Most notably, MacRae was the founding editor of the *British Journal of Sociology*.



1950-65, MacRae's term as an academic governor at LSE overlapped the time of troubles there in the late 1960s.

When Donald MacRae arrived at the LSE sociology department, it was about to shift away from the philosophical and comparative institutional approach of Hobhouse and Ginsberg to the demographic and empirical studies of social structure of D.V. Glass and his associates. Since MacRae (with Julius Gould) represented a philosophical and comparative approach rooted in history and politics, some tension was inevitable.

This was exacerbated by personal differences and also by political loyalties, given that MacRae associated himself with what might be called "the American Party" — such scholars as Daniel Bell, Edward Shils, Melvin Lasky and S.M. Lipset. Perhaps MacRae found himself most at home with people like Donald Watt and Leonard

Schapiro, and the distinguished LSE group of anthropologists, most strikingly in a celebrated joint seminar he conducted with Isaac Schapera and Maurice Freedman.

Happily, in the 1960s sociology was expanding. The LSE could play a leading role in peopling the new departments with sociologists of whatever methodological persuasion, and MacRae played a formative role in this process. Perhaps in his later years MacRae felt less at home in sociology as practised, something indicated by the ironic dedication of his book on Max Weber to Carl Maria von Weber's rival, Johann Nepomuk Hummel. With advancing age, personal problems may also have taken a toll. In 1948 he had married Helen McHardy, with whom he had two daughters, but the marriage was dissolved in 1986 (she died in 1995). In 1987 he married Jean Ridyard.

From some viewpoints, Donald MacRae's career fell short of its promise and his own large and honourable ambition. He was inhibited by perfectionism and diverted by excess of gifts, for example, his early published poetry. It is to be suspected that he had come to conclusions about social life which were too bleak and contrary to be articulated. For him, the trouble was that the great banalities were after all mostly true, and for the rest it was the wise man's part to leave the unsayable unsaid. Certainly, finding sustenance in such writers as St Augustine, Calvin, Machiavelli and Pareto implied sombre conclusions.

Yet, at the same time, he was deeply committed to the thinkers of the Enlightenment, both Scottish and English. He regretted (medicine apart) not living in the worlds of Gibbon, Ferguson and Hume.

After his first stroke in 1993 his consolations were the care of his wife together with political biographies. Virgil and Homer, books on architecture, Scotland, whisky and Haydn. In matters of faith he considered most of the ground between Geneva and Rome something of a swamp and liked to quote William Camden's lines:

Between the stirrup and the ground
Mercy I asked, mercy I found.

Donald MacRae is survived by his second wife and by two daughters from his first marriage.

University news

London School of Economics and Political Science

The following have been elected Honorary Fellows:
Mrs Pat Barker, author and winner of the Booker Prize for *Fictions*; Dr Nicholas Garganias, Deputy Governor, Bank of Greece; Dame Rosalyn Higgins, QC, Judge of the International Court of Justice; Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius; Professor Adam Roberts, FBA, Montague Burton Professor of International Relations and Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford; Mr Stephen Wheatcroft, Director of Aviation and Tourism International.
Appointed to chairs:
Karel H. Williams, Reader in

Accounting and Finance and Director of Graduate Studies at the Graduate School of Social Sciences, Manchester University, to be Professor of Accounting and Political Economy from October 1.
Jamie Andrew Peck, Reader in Geography, Manchester University, to be Professor of Geography from November 1.
John Raymond Hook, Reader in Physics in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Manchester University, to be Professor of Low Temperature Physics, Department of Physics and Astronomy, from October 1.
Anthony Howell, Senior Lecturer in Medical Oncology, Manchester University, to be Professor of Medical Oncology from October 1.
David Nicholas Fellows, FBA, Reader in Music at Manchester, to be Professor of Music from November 1.
John Harris, Professor of Bioethics

and Applied Philosophy in the School of Education, Manchester University, was appointed to the newly established Alliance Chair of Bioethics on August 1.
Grant of titles:
Dr Jacqueline Hayden, Dean of Postgraduate Medical Studies, as Professorial Fellow in the Department of General Practice, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing from August 1.
Dr A.H. Qureshi as Reader in International Economic Law from October 1, 1996, in lieu of his current appointment as Senior Lecturer in Law.
Honorary and visiting appointments:
Professors D Foray and M Teubal to be Honorary Visiting Professors in the ESRC Centre for Research on Innovation and Competition for three years from January 1, 1997.
Professor R.J. Stone, Director of Research and Development at the

Wolfson Centre, to be Honorary Visiting Professor of Virtual Reality in the Department of Surgery for three years from August 1, 1997.
Dr P.H. Cowley to be Honorary Visiting Professor in the Manchester School of Engineering from October 31, 2000.
Appointments:
Ian N. Hampson as Senior Lecturer in Gynaecological Oncology.
Ian Hindle as Senior Lecturer in Oral Surgery in the Department of Dental Medicine and Surgery.
Veronique Ming Pin-Pat as Lecturer in International Relations and International Political Economy in Dept of Government.
Yong Chang Wang, as Senior Lecturer in Engineering.
Rorden M. E. C. Williams, as Lecturer in International Relations and International Political Economy in Dept of Government.
Peter W. R. Woodruff, as Senior Lecturer in Adult Psychiatry.

SKI-ING IN SURREY.
A TRAVERSE OF LEITH HILL

(From a Member of the Alpine Club.)
The disadvantage of the ski is the difficulty of transporting them within the confines of London. On the return from a previous expedition, I was unfortunate enough to find myself with them on the Underground during the evening "rush hour," and very awkward and unpopular they proved. On the railways the officials have not yet made up their minds whether or not ski should rank as bicycles. One thing is certain, however — they are not carried at their "owner's risk," but at other people's.

Yesterday I solved the problem by starting at an early hour from Waterloo in company with two friends, both expert ski runners of the Alpine Club. On leaving the train at Dorking we became the object of various remarks. The most popular theory in England is that the ski runner progresses in a series of gigantic leaps across country, and small crutches, gathered to watch us pass, urged us to put them on and jump.

From Dorking we travelled by omnibus to South Holmwood, where we strapped on ski and set off in the direction of Leith Hill. The day was a beautiful one, as a New Year's

ON THIS DAY

January 2, 1928

On a beautiful New Year's Day, with the sun shining on the snow, three experienced skiers made for Surrey and put on "them new-fangled contraptions" for some fine runs to Dorking.

Day should be: the sun shone brightly and the newly-fallen snow of Saturday sparkled like gems on the old and dirty snow of the previous storm.

We passed up a narrow lane with great drifts on either hand, and, turning off to the right, struck straight up the eastern slopes of Leith Hill. Here, as we slid along between ranks of stately pines, I was reminded of a Tirolean landscape. It needed but a majestic snow peak rising from the hazy Weald of Sussex to complete the illusion.

Ski-ing in England is thirsty work, and we were glad to slide down to the inn at

Coldharbour for refreshment. Several pedestrians were present, and once again we were greeted with admiration and suspicion. Admiration on the part of youth, suspicion from old age. The latter, ably represented by old "Jarge," had it that it would take something to get him about on "them new-fangled contraptions," which it obviously would.

After luncheon we continued on our way to the summit of Leith Hill, nearly 1,000ft above sea level. The day was now dull, and we looked down through a dun-coloured haze towards the Weald, which seemed thousands of feet below, so deceptive is our atmosphere.

Some splendid wood running brought us to the pretty village of Abinger, nestling snugly in its sheltered valley. Perhaps the only exciting portion of this run was a steep narrow path. The tendency on these occasions is for the first man to fall and for his followers to pile themselves on top of him.

From Abinger we skied across country to Dorking and very enjoyable going we found it. The snow was thawing in the streets of Dorking, and it is sad to think that the perfect crystal snow, over which we have glided so lightly in the last few days, will soon vanish, perhaps not to return to this country for many years.

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY

SPORT

Pagel lends weight to Northampton
PAGES 21-28

MEDIA

Raymond Snoddy meets the TV guru Janet Hughes
PAGES 30, 31

BUSINESS

Bets are off for Coral after sale to Ladbroke
PAGE 40

TELEVISION AND RADIO

PAGES 38, 39

FRIDAY JANUARY 2 1998

Celtic must end barren ten-match sequence to prevent champions stretching lead

Jansen set to call time on Rangers

By Kevin McCarron

AS A foreigner, Wim Jansen has had to familiarise himself with Scottish life, but there are customs he is pledged to eradicate. Since he took the job in the summer, the Celtic head coach has only been able to extend the unhappy record he inherited — his club has failed to win any of its past ten matches against Rangers in the Bell's Scottish League premier division.

Today, at Celtic Park, in the third Old Firm game of the season, the Dutchman has another opportunity to snap the sequence. Failure against Rangers may be the only aspect of life that Jansen has still to alter at his new club. His personnel bear little resemblance to the squad that he inherited and there have been other welcome changes, including the winning of the Coca-Cola Cup in November.

On good days, such as the 3-0 victory over Dundee United in the final of that tournament, it is possible to believe that Jansen has already effected a transformation, but that is a misapprehension. A league table that already shows five defeats for Celtic is a better guide to the difficulties that he continues to encounter.

Against sides that are intent on hostile and bustle, the past term and discipline that Jansen seeks can falter. Last weekend, Celtic lost 1-0 away to St Johnstone. Rangers, in addition to possessing a stronger pool, also look better adapted to the pursuit of a championship. With nine consecutive titles under their belt, it is natural that they should have a good grasp of procedures.

Rangers are happy to accentuate the impression of stability at Ibrox, knowing that it may sound ominous to Celtic. After injuries and suspensions, a whole batch of players are available once again. Foremost among them is Paul Gascoigne, who was sent off in the last Old Firm match, in November, and has now completed a five-game suspension.

"I have to assess his match

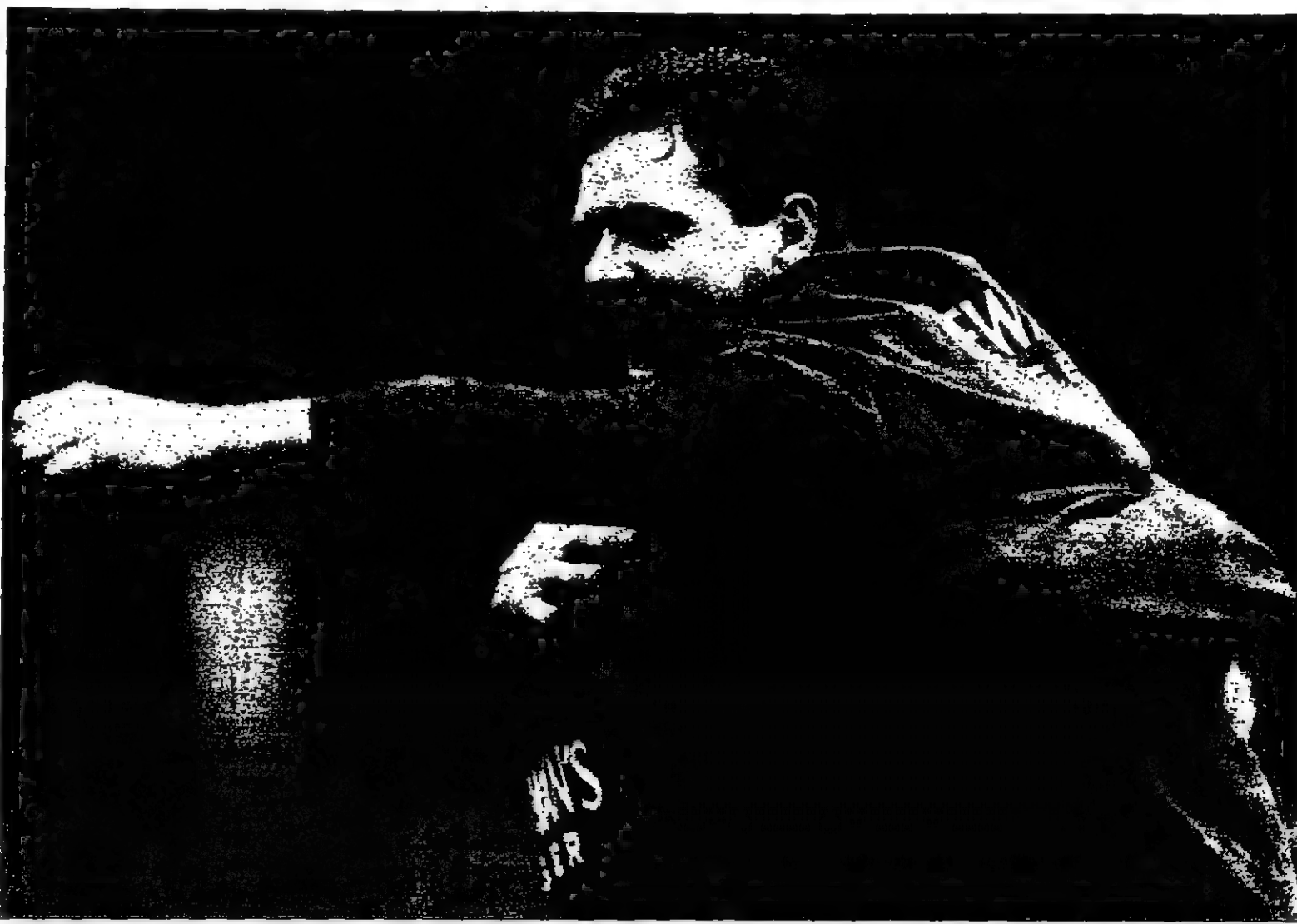
fitness," Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, said, "but his general fitness is fine. Experience of Old Firm games could be an important factor when I am deciding who to pick. It isn't a gamble, as such, to send out someone who is 'short of match' practice. It's just that you know they won't last the full 90 minutes."

"Gascoigne and Jonai Thern might come into that category. The decision I have is whether to let them start the game or bring them on later." Smith is hardly in torment over this decision, but since his team has scored nine goals in its past two matches, the choice is a tricky one. Jorg Albertz has been in his best form since signing for Rangers in 1996, for example, and restoring the roiling players could marginalise him.

Jansen has yet to piece together a line-up capable of defeating Rangers, even though there was a fillip for Celtic in the last-minute equaliser from Alan Stubbs that secured a draw in November, but he has striven to instil a more concerted style of play and, where the defence is concerned, he has been successful.

In both Old Firm matches this season, Celtic have played poorly yet still conceded only a single goal on each occasion. If they are to be victorious this afternoon, that same cohesion will have to spread throughout a team that lacks individuals of the calibre of Brian Laudrup or Gascoigne. Defeat would leave Rangers with a seven-point advantage over their Glasgow rivals.

"We will have to show the same determination to increase our lead as Celtic will to peg it back," Smith said. Over the past few years, Rangers have consistently been able to summon their best form when necessary. If Celtic, whose injury problems seem to have cleared up, are to establish themselves as contenders for the title, they will have to show that same capacity.



Gascoigne, sent off in the last Old Firm encounter, is available for Rangers again this afternoon, but may not start the match. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Hibernian reveal hidden depths

Heart of Midlothian — 2
Hibernian — 2

By Kevin McCarron

BEFORE this match, no one could tell quite what it would take to provide Hibernian with life. Yesterday, at Tynecastle, the answer was provided. Already bottom of the Bell's Scottish League premier division, Jim Duffy's side faced the sort of indignity that proved to be more than their soul could tolerate. They were 2-0 behind at the interval and, by then, few would have envisaged the pugnacity with which they would recover to earn a draw.

The failure to crush their Edinburgh rivals when they might have done so will be punished by more than a bout of dejection at Hearts. A win would have taken them to the top of the table, but Rangers now hold a lead of a point and play their game in hand, against Celtic, this afternoon.

For Hibernian, the benefits are far more difficult to measure. It could be that the result

has kept Duffy in employment. His team have played 15 matches without a victory, but if the revival in spirit can be sustained then results, too, should improve. After the interval at Tynecastle, assets hidden for months became conspicuous.

When Harper, the forward, began blazing down the right and skimming past Pottin, the Hearts full back, the first suspicions that Hibernian were not doomed to despair began to develop. Previously, the neutral spectator had only been engulfed in feelings of pity for them.

At the outset, they were incapable of protecting themselves. Chris Reid had already made an athletic save, from Adam, before Hearts scored in the sixth minute. Robertson laid the ball to McCann who crossed, with his first touch, to Fulton. Although he had to lunge to make contact, the midfielder was able to loop a header over the goalkeeper and into the net.

Downs, the centre half who has been injured, was appearing in the Hibernian side for

the first time since February of last year. Duffy accepted the element of risk, hoping to benefit from the defender's experience and physique, but he has had little fortune of late and, at the second goal, the gamble appeared as prudent as Russian roulette.

After 11 minutes, Robertson turned a pass to the left and Dennis, who could have cleared, knocked the ball into the path of Fulton. He then had another chance to intervene but again nudged the ball to the Hearts man, who

World Cup ticket fears — 22
Hereford's mission — 22
Misery for Bodis — 22

advanced and slipped a shot low into the net.

"The only good thing about the first half was that we were only 2-0 down at the end of it," Duffy said. He, at least, believed that he had the type of men who are prone to a radical change of personality. "We are a jekyll and Hyde team," he said. "The first half

showed why we are at the bottom of the table and in the second we looked as if we should be further up it."

Jim Jefferies, his Hearts counterpart, is also a believer in the possibility of transformation. "I told the players at the interval that it definitely wasn't over," he said, "and that Hibs would get a boost if they scored." He can have found only a glum satisfaction in having his suspicions confirmed so graphically. The visitors claimed a goal in the 51st minute.

Harper bounded past Pottin and pulled over a cross. Rousset, the Hearts goalkeeper, advanced and was deceived by the wind that took the ball away from him. Had he remained on his line, Hibernian could not have scored, but, as it was, Walker, from some 14 yards out, was able to guide a header past the stranded Frenchman.

Although Reid soon had to make a fine double save, from Fulton and then Cameron, Hibernian were no longer downcast. After 67 minutes, Crawford set up Dow for a low

cross that McGinlay drilled home for the equaliser. When Robertson, an inveterate scorer in this fixture, missed a late chance to win the match for Hearts, it was clear that Hibernian had bucked a dismal trend.

HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN (4-4-3): G. Rousset — G. Leake, D. Walker, P. Ritchie, N. Pottin (sub: J. Fagan, 70 min) — S. Selwood, C. Cameron, S. Fulton, N. McCann (sub: J. Hamilton, 80 min) — S. Adams, J. Robertson.
HIBERNIAN (3-4-3): G. Reid — J. Bodis (sub: A. Rousset, 87 min), S. Dennis, D. Downs — W. Miller, C. Jackson, P. McGinlay, A. Dow — K. Harper, A. Wallace (sub: K. Miller, 70 min), S. Crawford.
Referee: R. Tait.

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

GAZZA IN GLASGOW
England and Rangers expect in 1998

UP FOR THE CUP
Oliver Holt meets Mark Hughes and Emley prepare for their big day



TOP COLUMNISTS
Lynne Truss
Steve McNamara
Simon Barnes and
Lawrence Dallaglio

ON MONDAY

A 16-page guide to the 1998 sporting calendar
Under the skin of sport

Sports Report stays in tune with changing times

TOMORROW afternoon is a busy one for sport — it sees, among other things, the FA Cup third round — so there will be little time for congratulations, but at five o'clock give a nod in the direction of an old friend, for BBC radio's *Sports Report* will be 50 years old.

Ah yes, *Sports Report*. It is perhaps impossible to say those words without hearing in one's head the te-tum-tum of the military march that serves as the programme's signature tune, or the measured Scottish burr of James Alexander Gordon reading out the classified football results.

Both are legacies of a bygone age, but to *Sports Report* they remain stubbornly appropriate. Perhaps they bestow order and seriousness upon activities that would be little without them: in the case of the football results, so successfully that the imparting of so much bitter-sweet news is almost unbearable in its concentrated essence.

Sports Report has always had the same, simple purpose: to deliver information quickly and efficiently, and that its makers have never lost sight of this fact is surely the secret of its success. "It is to the

credit of the programme's creators that it has changed so little over the years," Gill Pulsford, the present producer, said this week at a lunch to mark the half-century. "They got the formula correct right at the start."

The first edition, advertised as "a new Saturday feature for sportsmen", went on the air on the Light Programme from 5.30pm to 6pm on January 3, 1948, to the strains of Hubert Bath's *Out of the Blue*, which was snatched from the gramophone library by some inspired individual. The programme was presented by Raymond Glendenning and contained a discussion about amateurism and a match re-

Simon Wilde pays tribute to a radio programme that remains a fixture on Saturday afternoons

port from Portsmouth v Huddersfield Town by a young John Arlott.

It was an immediate hit with a public hungry for instant sports news and, with no competition to concern it until the arrival of television several years later, its audience touched a staggering 12 million (it is now a healthy 1.5 million, the highest anywhere on BBC radio on a Saturday). Seven years into its life, the

programme was extended to an hour to get the football results on earlier, but that was the last big structural change.

The greatest upheaval has involved the frequency on which it went out. In 1964 it was switched to the Third Programme, where it followed a sports service of live commentaries ("interspersed with classical and light music") that was the forerunner to the existing Saturday

show that starts at 1pm. Since then it has been carried on Radio 3 (the Third Programme's successor), Radio 2 and, now, Radio 5 Live.

To mark the occasion, tomorrow's *Sports Report* will begin an hour earlier to take in a 60-minute retrospective and when *Sports Report* begins, there will be a brief television link anchored by Steve Rider.

Sports Report has made the reputations of presenters such as Eamonn Andrews, Peter Jones, Desmond Lynam and John Laverdale (it was during Lynam's era in the Seventies that an attempt was made to remove the signature tune, but it was swiftly re-

stored after a public outcry), but no one has basked more warmly in its glow than Gordon, who has read the football results for the past 25 years — half the programme's life.

The task of reading the football results might never have come his way had his predecessor, Jimmy Kingsbury, not overlooked the essential seriousness of the job. On his first day, he prefaced the first result by saying to an expectant audience bent over their pools coupons: "Eyes down, children... May your felt tips never run dry." He did not read the results again. Gordon made no such error and prides himself on never having read a score incorrectly — no small boast for someone who has delivered more than 50,000 of them in his time. His most frequent correspondence is with a married couple who have a wager on whether or not the first mistake will ever come.

"I believe the key to not making a mistake is finding a rhythm, which I put down to my musical experience," he said. "If you have that rhythm, it is hard to go wrong and, though it may sound square, I think you owe it to the listeners to get it right."



Voices that have contributed to an enduring success story (from left to right): Andrews, Lynam, Gordon and Arlott

SALE

TIME IN LONDON

SHOP TILL YOU DROP
— then drop into a great hotel

FROM ONLY £29
PER PERSON PER NIGHT
Including full English Breakfast

29	Royal Scot	0171 278 2434
	Near King's Cross & Euston	AA/RAC ★★
39	Kensington Palace	0171 937 8121
	Near Kensington High St. & Knightsbridge	AA/RAC ★★
49	The Grosvenor	0171 834 9494
	Victoria & Buckingham Palace	AA ★★
59	The Selfridge	0171 408 2080
	Just off Oxford Street	AA/RAC ★★

PRICES VALID 2nd JANUARY - 15th FEBRUARY 1998
BOOK BY 10th JANUARY 1998

CHILDREN WELCOME
Sharing a room with 2 adults: Under 6: Stay & eat breakfast free
6-15: Stay free, £3 each per breakfast

Ask your Travel Agent to book through Highlife on 0800 700 400
(N. Ireland 01232 312000) or call the hotel of your choice
Please quote reference TT0201

Prices per person per night based on 2 people sharing a double or twin room. No single occupancy.
Breakfast subject to limited availability. All details correct at time of going to press.
Offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Available to UK residents only.

England appeal over World Cup ticket allocation



Mellor: concerned

AMID growing fears that England will receive too few tickets for the World Cup finals in France this year, the Football Association is to ask the tournament organisers for a larger allocation. The FA fears that if its complement is not increased, supporters will turn to the black market, which could make it impossible to segregate rival fans.

Under the present rules, 60 per cent of the tickets are intended for the French market, 20 per cent will go to Fifa, the sport's world governing body, and only 20 per cent will be shared between the competing sides. In a stadium seating 40,000, the 20,000 members of the England Travel Club

and thousands of other supporters would be chasing only 4,000 tickets.

Sir Brian Hayes, deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, is leading the FA's security operation at the finals and is to meet French police and tournament officials later this month. He confirmed yesterday that the FA will be seeking more tickets.

"With 20,000 people registered with the England Travel Club, it gives you some idea of the potential demand," Sir Brian said. "Also remember that people can travel in three hours to Lens, where one of England's games is being played. The FA will be making a strong case to get their allocation increased."

Sir Brian acknowledged the pos-

sibility of trouble among supporters, especially if they were unable to buy tickets or had purchased them for the wrong areas in the grounds. "There is still a problem when fans travel abroad but, over the past few years, we have built up a tremendous reservoir of expertise," he said.

"We already know from making contact with the French that they are very keen to listen. I shall be raising such matters as their general policy on ticket control, segregation, how they will handle fans going to and from grounds and inside them, and hope they are going to cope with the enormous movement of fans across the country."

David Mellor, head of the Government's football task force, is

similarly concerned. "I think there is going to be a terrible black market in those tickets and it would be awful if the World Cup was marred by spectator trouble," he said yesterday.

Manchester United supporters have called for a meeting with club officials to resolve the increasing problem of fans standing in seated areas during matches at Old Trafford. Some supporters claim they have faced bullying and intimidation from ground stewards.

The matter came to a head during the game against Everton on Boxing Day, when fans fought with stewards as they tried to eject them from behind the East End goal.

Andy Walsh, a spokesman for

the Manchester United Independent Supporters' Association, said: "The next home game is against Spurs on January 10 and we have to meet to talk about it before then. The brutality of some of the security staff has got beyond a joke."

Gillian Howarth, the association's secretary, said: "The problem has grown into open defiance now. More people are standing up to protest at the way they are being treated. It is becoming a confrontation between the security men and the fans. People are being ejected, they have their photos taken and their season ticket withdrawn. They're treated like vermin. When we've asked for meetings with the club in the past, we've been refused."

After the Everton match, Ken Ramsden, a United spokesman, said: "We aren't saying the fans can't sing and chant. They can stand up in moments of excitement but what we are talking about here is standing up permanently." Maurice Watkins, a United director, said yesterday: "Any complaints against our stewards or security staff will be looked at."

Christian Gross, the beleaguered Tottenham Hotspur manager, has suffered another setback with the loss of Allan Nielsen, the Danish midfielder, to the FA Cup third-round tie against Fulham on Monday. Nielsen broke a bone in his ankle in the 1-1 draw against Arsenal at White Hart Lane on Sunday and is likely to be on the sidelines for at least a month.

David Powell on the club trying to escape Ronnie Radford's shadow

Hereford resolve to rewrite history



Graham Turner's secretary, Joan, was in her office trying to cope with the phone calls. The new year programme was placing extra demands on those staff remaining at Hereford United after the redundancies that followed the club's loss of Nationwide League status last May. As usual, when Hereford are on an FA Cup run, people want to know where Ronnie Radford was.

"I have been here 18 years and I am sick of it," Joan said. Of that goal, "Neil Grayson has got to score one to kill that Ronnie Radford goal so we never hear that name again." She has worked under ten managers at Hereford, but the name that keeps coming up is Ronnie Radford.

Even Turner, the Hereford director of football, admits to being fed up with it, though one imagines that, if the Vauxhall Conference club's directors shared that view, they would have taken down the photograph in the boardroom by now. It is still there on the wall in black and white: "Goal of the Century", the caption reads, though Radford is not in shot. The boot that launched the cannonball is 30 yards away from the Newcastle United goalkeeper in the shot.

Goal of the century? As far as Hereford's history is concerned, it remains so, but there are 24 months to go. However, for Grayson, the club's leading scorer, to have a chance of granting Joan her wish, Hereford will need to beat Tranmere Rovers in the third round on Sunday. It is no good scoring a fabulous goal to eliminate a first division club. You cannot score the goal of the century against Tranmere. It has to put out a big club, like Newcastle United.

Newcastle, from the old first division, were beaten 2-1 by non-league Hereford at Edgar Street in 1972. Radford scored the equaliser. Ricky George the winner. At the end of that season, Hereford entered the Football League, but, in 25 years before dropping out again, their spoon hardly made a sound against the trophy. Now they are a non-league club again, they are up to old tricks.

After six seasons in which they eliminated only one league club and became one of non-league football's favourite dishes, going out to Yeovil Town, Bath City and Hitchin Town, Hereford have rolled over two league opponents this season. In the first round they put out Brighton, who had consigned them to the Conference. In the second round, they defeated Colchester United.



Radford's thunderbolt out of the Edgar Street mud in 1972 helps to eliminate Newcastle United and enters the realms of FA Cup legend

"I suppose, as a non-league club, there is less pressure," Turner said. "As a league side, you are on a banana skin." Sittingbourne, from the Dr Martens League, threw one under Hereford in the fourth qualifying round and they almost fell. Hereford trailed 2-1 towards the end. "I looked at the sky and asked:

"Why me?" Turner said. "I could not believe it could happen so soon after Brighton." But the equaliser came and now the fourth round is beckoning. They have never been beyond that stage.

The only bull Turner talks is Freetown Kudus, the club mascot, a one-ton Herefordshire beast occasionally pa-

raded before matches. Not this Sunday, though. "Haven't had time to think about it," Joan said. There is refreshing straight talking in Turner's replies to key questions. Formerly the manager of Aston Villa and Wolverhampton Wanderers, is he content at Hereford? Certainly not. Ambition still burns.

"There might be an opportunity to manage somewhere bigger than Hereford," Turner — "a young 50" — said. "People knew that when I came but, if the opportunity comes up, it must mean I have done something here." Next question. Which is more important, beating Kidderminster Harriers in the Con-

ference yesterday or Tranmere? "It's got to be Tranmere," he replied. No platitudes about the league being the bread and butter. His reasons are "financial". A glamour tie would earn Hereford some £200,000. "That would ease our financial problems," Turner said. He did not want to draw

Tranmere — estimated profit on Sunday, £10,000 — and does not mind admitting it. "Disappointing," he said. Two months ago, Hereford were unable to pay the players on schedule and, though that crisis has passed, a Cup windfall would enable Turner to keep them on full-time next season. He has taken a voluntary 30 per cent cut in salary and helps out wherever he can. "We do not have a commercial manager and I take any opportunity to sell a board on the ground or an advert in the programme," he said.

Hereford are in voluntary administration, nearly £1 million in debt. "That means we have to keep control of our own affairs and there is no administrator coming in, wielding an axe," Turner said. "We have a meeting of creditors this month to sort out a deal to ease the situation and stop the potential winding-up of the club."

One thing that Turner will

'A non-league side again, they are up to their old Cup tricks'

not admit is that the chance of an immediate return to the third division has gone. "You never give up hope," he said, perhaps recalling that Brighton were 12 points adrift at the foot of the league in December last season.

After their 4-1 win away to Kidderminster yesterday, Hereford are 19 points behind Halifax, the Conference leaders. If John Aldridge, the watching Tranmere manager, left uneasy at the quality of Hereford's play, he may be comforted to know that Richard Leadbeater will not be available on Sunday. Leadbeater played a part in all four Hereford goals, scoring three and making the other, but, as a loan signing, he is prohibited from playing in the Cup.

Going out of the league was Turner's most traumatic football experience. "I had never seen so many grown men cry: in the boardroom, on the terraces, in the dressing-room," he said. If bulls could cry, Freetown Kudus would no doubt have been standing in a puddle. At Wolves, Turner left when abuse from fans became intolerable. At Hereford, supporters voted to raise admission prices this season in a survival gesture.

Relegation inspired a book on the club *Hereford United: The League Era*. Ron Parrott, the author, suggests that David Icke, the broadcaster turned Green Party eccentric, is "arguably Hereford's best-known former player", a goalkeeper in their first league season. Try telling that to Joan.

Laugh on Talbot as Stevenage take spoils

By WALTER GAMMIE

PAUL FAIRCLOUGH, the Stevenage Borough manager, had the last laugh after his clash with Brian Talbot, head coach of Rushden and Diamonds, who had refused his request to postpone the clubs' Vauxhall Conference match at Broadhall Way yesterday afternoon.

"Football has a nasty habit of slapping you in the face," Fairclough had said before-hand by way of appropriate psychology in trying to negate the advantage Talbot had sought by insisting the fixture went ahead just two days before Stevenage visit Swindon Town in the FA Cup third round.

Sure enough the move blew up in Talbot's face as Rushden's run of four Conference victories, the last a 2-0 win over Stevenage on Boxing Day, came to an end. It had looked promising enough when Darren Collins put Rushden ahead before half-time with his thirteenth goal of the season, but Stevenage struck twice in rapid succession after half-time to wrest a valuable 2-1 win.

The goals were scored by Dean Wordsworth and Guilio Grazioli, the strikers recruited by Fairclough just before Christmas to try to give his team the cutting edge that it has lacked this season.

Cheltenham Town were similarly held to their fixture at Yeovil Town — who were anxious not to miss out on a big holiday attendance — before their cup tie against Reading at Whaddon Road tomorrow. A 3-1 defeat, before a crowd of 3,657, brought to an end Cheltenham's run without defeat that extends to 17 Conference matches or 24 games including the FA Cup.

The result enabled Halifax Town to restore their seven-point lead at the head of the table. They gained swift revenge for their defeat at Gateshead on Boxing Day with a 2-0 win over the same opponents at The Shay, thanks to two goals by Geoff Horsfield, whose tally in the Conference this season now stands at 23.

With Hednesford Town losing 2-1 at Kettering Town, Woking going down 3-0 at Farnborough Town and Morecambe managing only a 1-1 draw at Southport, results all round ran in favour of George Mulhall's team.

Kettering's steady revival — they have now enjoyed the luxury of a four-match unbeaten run — under the guidance of Steve Berry, their player-manager who captained Stevenage's title-winning team in 1990, made Stevenage's win all the more valuable.

Kettering and Telford United, who gained their second victory under Jimmy Mullen, their recently-appointed director of coaching, when beating Leek Town 3-0, are now only a win away from dropping Kidderminster Harriers, runners-up last season, into a relegation place.

Reading between the lines of Bodin's card trick

Russell Kempson on a case of wrongful dismissal that a senior professional player will not be challenging



Bodin: bemused

Paul Bodin, the Reading defender, has been forced to accept a three-match suspension for an offence he did not commit. Reading, the Nationwide League first division club, have decided not to appeal against his bizarre dismissal in the 0-0 draw against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Elm Park on December 20.

Video replays have shown that Bodin was not involved in the 38th-minute incident, when Gareth Davies, Reading's recent £100,000 signing from Crystal Palace, tackled Robbie Keane. Davies then playfully ruffled Keane's hair, which resulted in the Wolves striker tumbling dramatically to the ground.

Steve Bennett, the referee, took advice from one of his assistants and sent off a clearly bemused Bodin. It was the first time the former Wales player had been dismissed in a career spanning 17 years. "I couldn't believe it," Bodin said yesterday. "I was at least ten yards away and didn't even see what had happened."

"You usually know what the ref is referring to when something has gone on but when he said to me, 'You know what you did', I said I hadn't a clue. He said his linesman had seen it. It was almost laugh-

able at the time, but it's not so funny now."

Terry Bullivant the Reading manager, initially intended to appeal against the decision but changed his mind. Bodin, 33, has started only three matches this season and was making his first appearance in four months only because of an injury to Steve Swales, the full back.

Had Reading pursued their appeal, it is likely that Bodin would have been exonerated and that Davies, a central defender, would have incurred, the suspension in-

stead. Reading have a dearth of central defenders: at present, with Linvoy Primus, Keith McPherson, Dariusz Wondolowski and Michael Thorp absent through injury.

"It was the club's decision and I have to accept it," Bodin said diplomatically. "I have spoken to Terry and we have come to an agreement on behalf of the club. What upsets me is that I'd never been sent off before and I had hoped it would never happen. I'd waited a long time to get back in the side and then it lasted only 38 minutes."

Bodin is still hoping that the case of mistaken identity can be resolved. "I want this to be erased from my record," he said. "I'll have to serve my suspension but the manager has said he will try and clear my name afterwards."

The Football Association is powerless to intervene unless it receives notice from the alleged offender's club. "We take the referee's report as final unless an appeal is lodged," an FA spokesman said yesterday. "If there is no appeal, then the sending-off will stand."

Bodin will miss Reading's FA Cup third-round tie away to Cheltenham Town, the Vauxhall Conference side, tomorrow.

LET'S GET IT RIGHT!

If you have a complaint about an item in this newspaper which concerns inaccuracy, intrusion, harassment or discrimination, write to the editor about it.

If you're still dissatisfied you can write to the Press Complaints Commission, an independent organisation established to uphold an editorial Code of Practice for the Press.

THIS NEWSPAPER ABIDES BY THE PCC'S DECISIONS



1 SALISBURY SQUARE LONDON EC4Y 8AE

Telephone 071 353 1248 Facsimile 071 353 8355

This space has been donated by the publisher

SPORT IN BRIEF

Flick off to winning start in rally

MOTOR RALLYING: The Paris-Dakar rally, starting in France for the first time in four years, drew big crowds for the first stage yesterday. Some 68,000 people watched the single 12-kilometre timed special section at La Châtre, which was won by Francois Flick, of France, on a Honda motorcycle in 9min 33sec.

About 10,000 people saw the competitors off from Versailles, outside Paris, the fifth time the rally has started at the chateau but the first since 1988. Bruno Saby, also of France and the race winner in 1993, was the fastest in a car in the timed section, with 9min 45sec. The first four places were all taken by Mitsubishi, including the title-holder, Kenjiro Shinozuka, of Japan, who was 16 seconds slower than Saby in second.

Yates pipped

CYCLING: Sean Yates, a former Tour de France time-trial winner and, at 37, the reigning British 50-mile champion, who claims he competes "just for fun", was beaten yesterday in the race to become the country's first victor of the year.

Yates started last man off in the Southborough and District ten-mile time-trial at Vethersden, Kent, and finished with a winning time of 22min 25sec. Some 40 minutes earlier, however, and more than 120 miles to the north, Tim Bailey, of VC Deal, had recorded 22min 01sec to win the CC Breckland event in Norfolk.

Leaders accused

BASKETBALL: Steve Tucker, the Derby Storm coach who resigned this week, yesterday accused leading players and officials of ruining the sport in England. "I'm disgusted when we play other teams and they're playing five Americans," he said.

RUGBY LEAGUE: MEANINGLESS MATCHES FAIL TO DO GAME ANY FAVOURS

Two Deans bring fine draw to an ugly end

Leeds Rhinos 22
Castleford Tigers 22
By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IN UNSEASONAL wind and driving rain for rugby league, which remains reluctant to give up on Christmas and new year fixtures despite a shift to spring and summer, honours were evenly spread after a dogged fightback by Leeds Rhinos from 16-0 down in the Teley Challenge match at Headingley yesterday.

A worthy contest, in terms of entertainment, if devoid of meaning, was marred towards the end by a spat between two Deans, Sampson, the Castleford and Great Britain prop forward, and Lawford, the replacement Leeds hooker. The pair were

Some of the "challenge" encounters over the holidays — in reality, pre-season friendlies — have merely exposed the futility of staging matches outside the spring and summer months. Wigan's slaughter of what was virtually the St Helens second XIII on Boxing Day was preceded by calls from both coaches to scrap the fixture.

Neither side was at their sharpest yesterday — inevitably when players are in the middle of weights programmes designed to get them ready for the fourth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup in six weeks and the Super League in April.

Leeds, at least, had played a game, whereas Castleford had not come together competitively since September, and, minus their influential Australian contingent, enthusiasm got them through an encouraging first half before the inevitable collapse. Two of Castleford's new signings, Barrie-Jon Mather and Francis Maloney, gave good accounts of themselves.

Leeds were nearer to full strength but looked thoroughly disjointed before the break as Gay raced over in the fourth minute and Orr found an embarrassing amount of room at the play-the-ball to free Maloney on his shoulder. When Mather sent in the hard-working Critchley and Maloney added his second try by Richard Gay, his second of the match, to level the scores in the 79th minute. Holroyd missed a penalty kick from 35 metres in the fourth minute of added time.

Graham Murray, the new Leeds coach, who is due to arrive from Australia next week, would hardly have been pleased by the first half. The recording of the second half will make better viewing for him, as Morley sucked in defenders with a typical surge and Holroyd's floated pass gave Hughes room to score at the left corner.



Golden, the Leeds wing, makes a vain attempt to escape from Lee Harris, of Castleford

Iestyn Harris, in his first match since the back injury that kept him out of Great Britain's series defeat by Australia in November, unleashed a magnificent last-ditch challenge to prevent an almost certain try by Critchley and, moments later, ingeniously worked the move for a try by

Sheridan after good support work by Gay.

Silly passes under pressure cost Castleford another try, this time by Golden. Holroyd missed with the conversion but his penalty after Sampson's offside offence looked to have secured the home side victory. They reckoned without a fine break by Dobson and Orr putting Gay in for Castleford's final try,

which Benn converted for a deserved share of the spoils.

SCORELINE: Leeds: Tries: Francis, Hughes, Sheridan, Golden, Goals: Holroyd (2). Harris, Castleford: Tries: Gay (3), Maloney, Critchley, Goals: Maloney (2), Benn.

LEEDS RHINOS: 1. Harris, M. Golden, A. Hughes, F. Curran, L. Rickett, A. Kemp, R. Sheridan, M. Maloney, P. Curran, D. Paine, A. Hay, A. Farrell, A. Morley, Substitutes: G. Holroyd, D. Lawford, P. Heasler, J. Field.

CASTLEFORD TIGERS: J. Francis, R. Gay, J. Critchley, B. J. Mather, J. Wiles, P. Maloney, M. Ford, G. Sampson, G. Dobson, N. Sykes, L. Heasler, J. Torrie, S. Hargreaves, Substitutes: D. Orr, J. Benn, P. Smith, S. Hall.

Referee: C. Morris (Huddersfield).

Born-again Oldham stride out

David Burke sees a club risen from extinction gain an unexpected victory

Even the most ardent supporter could not have envisaged such an encouraging result — a 36-16 victory at Rochdale Hornets yesterday — as Oldham took their first tentative steps in their renaissance.

Perversely, the result was always going to be secondary for the band of loyal Oldham followers after the trials and tribulations of 1997. Three months ago, any hope of opening the new year with a competitive fixture, never mind a victory, was a pipedream. The famous Oldham club, launched in 1876 and founder members of the rugby league alongside Rochdale 19 years later, had ceased to exist.

Oldham Bears were relegated from Superleague last year with the price of failure exacerbated by debts of £1.2 million. The Bears went into liquidation before Christmas. Hamilton, a supporter, and three other local businessmen relaunched the club — in a manner to delight the traditionalists. Oldham have gone back to the future, wearing red-and-white hooped jerseys and preferring their old nickname, Roughyeds, to a more trendy suffix adopted from the nearest menagerie.

Yesterday, Oldham, who will compete in the second division next season, fielded an amalgam of cast-offs, loanees, trialists and 34-year-old Paul Rowland, who has been tempted out of retirement. Deafened by a virtually inevitable.

The Oldham players, encouraged by many of the 3,097 crowd, responded with a display of commitment and skill, remarkable after only a few training sessions. Oldham led 18-16 at half-time with tries from Ade Meade, Mike Prescott and the impressive Joe McNicholas — three players unable to break into the Bears team last season. Rochdale

included their six close-season signings, and could have no excuses for such a poor display.

Inspired by Neil Flanagan, the former Rochdale scrum-half, and Craig Barker, Oldham surprisingly stepped up the momentum in the second half and added three tries without reply from Martin Madders, McNicholas and Ian Simfield, their new recruit from Salford Reds.

Brian Quilan added six goals from six attempts to make it a miserable afternoon for Rochdale in front of a crowd that was double their biggest of last season. Rochdale's three tries came from Kevin Mannion, the effervescent Richard Pachniuk and Peter Fitzgerald.

Paddy Kirwan, the Oldham coach, said: "I am more pleased for our loyal spectators because they turned up in large numbers not knowing what to expect. I did not expect us to win so comprehensively. The side is packed with local players and our team spirit won the day."

Hamilton, an accountant, said: "The victory was beyond our wildest dreams, but our supporters will have to be patient. Many rugby league clubs are time-bombs waiting to explode and we are determined to be prudent with our housekeeping and not go down the same route as the Bears."

"We will not be paying out any guaranteed money to players and the cash will have to be earned on the pitch."

Oldham are still hoping to be included in the draw, next Monday, for the third round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, having been out of existence when details of the 1997-98 competition were finalised.

"We are hoping this result will improve our case," Hamilton said.

We will not be paying guaranteed money to the players

THE TIMES

EVERY WEEKDAY, THE BIG PICTURE.

CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In the refresher last week, I began looking at the subject of the jump shift — making a single jump in a new suit when your partner has opened with one of a suit. I pointed out that you should begin with a jump shift only when your hand is easy to describe. Either by rebidding your suit, rebidding in No-Trumps or by supporting your partner on the next round. The subject of the article this week is opener's bid after the initial jump shift. The general rule is that opener should make the same rebid, a level higher, that he would have made had partner responded a level lower. So, look at the following opening hands after the bidding has started One Heart - Two Spades:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) ♠78
♥AQ752
♦KJ54
♣K3 | 2) ♠K65
♥AJ852
♦Q6
♣AQS | 3) ♠A852
♥KQ752
♦K6
♣J2 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|

Hands (1) and (2) are straightforward. With (1) you rebid Three Diamonds and (2) raise partner's spades.

On Hand (3), assuming that you are playing a weak No-Trump, you would rebid One No-Trump over One Spade, showing 15-17 points (if you play a strong No-Trump, that is the best opening bid on the hand). You should rebid Two No-Trumps over Two Spades, again telling partner that you have a better than minimum balanced hand. This leaves him plenty of room to tell you why he has forced. If he rebids Three Hearts, you can show your spade support with Three Spades; if he rebids Three Spades, you can show your enthusiasm with a Four Club cue-bid; if he rebids Three No-Trumps, it is probably best to proceed with Four Spades, showing your support.

Now consider the rebid when the initial response was at the three-level. The sequence starts One Spade - Three Diamonds:

4) ♠AQ54 ♥KJ54 ♦AQ5 ♣AQ5	5) ♠AKJ852 ♥KJ ♦AQ5 ♣AQ72
-----------------------------------	------------------------------------

If you were playing a strong No-Trump, you would have opened one on Hand (4); playing a weak No-Trump, your Three No-Trump rebid shows 15-17 points.

On (5), we do have a difference from the rebid over a simple response. If partner had responded Two Diamonds, you are just about worth Three Clubs. However, after his jump shift, partner will not have a second suit of clubs, so the important thing is to stress the strength of your spades: bid Three Spades. That is an important point — try to avoid rebidding poor suits in possible slam auctions, and take every opportunity you can to stress a good suit.

□ The Macallan international bridge pairs championship 1998 will be played at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London, NW1 from January 21 to 23. Tickets and information from The Macallan Box Office, 31 Queens Road, Mortlake, London, SW14 5PH (tel: 0181-878 5844).

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- | | |
|---|---|
| AOUDAD
a. A sheep
b. An Arab grandfather
c. A type of succulent date | CRISTA
a. A toboggan run
b. A ridge
c. An armour elbow-guard |
| BOOKSY
a. Bookish
b. A prefect at Harrow
c. An ophthalmic disease | GALPON
a. A barn
b. A fish
c. A scaling-ladder |
- Answers on page 35

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Sadler leads

After three rounds of Britain's premier all-play-all tournament at Hastings, Matthew Sadler, the co-British champion, has powered into the lead with 2½ points out of a possible three. Luke McShane, after a poor start, made up for lost ground by a swift demolition of James Plaskett, the former British champion.

White: Vladislav Tkachiev
Black: Matthew Sadler
Hastings Premier
December 1997

Sicilian Defence	
1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	d6
3 Bc4	Nb6
4 c3	Nc6
5 e3	g6
6 Ng5	e6
7 O-O	h6
8 Nf3	Bg7
9 Bb3	O-O
10 Re1	a5
11 Nbd2	Kf7
12 Nf1	d5
13 Ng3	Bb6
14 Bb3	Qc7
15 Bae4	Qd4
16 cxd4	Nx7
17 Bb2	Rc8
18 Rc1	Rc8
19 Bb3	b6
20 Bc5	Qb6
21 Bc4	a5
22 Rf1	Nc5
23 Ne1	Qa7
24 Ne2	Nb4
25 Bxb4	Bxb4
26 Qc2	Nb4
27 Rxc4	Rc4
28 dxe4	Rc4
29 B3	Rc3
30 Nd3	Rd3
31 Qc3	Qa2
32 g3	Qa6
33 Rc1	Qa6

34 Rb2	Rc2
35 Qc2	Qc3
36 Nc1	f5
37 e5	Qx5
38 Qc5	g5
39 Nc3	e4
40 Nxb4	Qx3
41 Bf1	g5
42 Nd5	Bd4
43 h3	Kf7
44 g4	Ng4
45 Ng4	Ke6
46 Nf4	Kd6
47 Rb4	Bb6
48 Kd1	Kd5
49 Ng2	Bg5
50 b4	b6

White resigns
White: Luke McShane
Black: James Plaskett
Hastings Premier
December 1997

Play in the Premier continues until January 7 after the rest day yesterday. The playing venue is the Cinque Ports Hotel, Hastings.

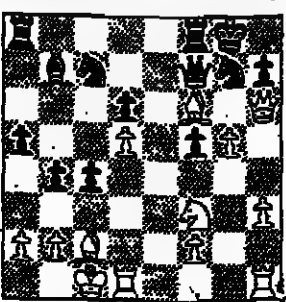
□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Steinitz - Blackburne, played in London in 1876.

Can you spot White's powerful breakthrough on the kingside?



Solution on page 38

Cardiff's television wrangle heads for the law courts

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Commentary

The match between Cardiff and Pontypridd will kick off at six o'clock tomorrow evening. That such an announcement should be considered newsworthy only emphasises the ridiculous minutiae that still seem, with the season at half-way, to preoccupy Welsh rugby.

You would have thought by now South Africa, having cut a swathe through the European game, that improving standards of play should be uppermost in the influential minds of those who run rugby in Wales. Cardiff remain at loggerheads with the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) over a ten-year contract which the union insists every rugby club should sign.

This is a requirement that has to be satisfied before any club may be granted any of the money that the governing body receives from the

television companies. Every club has reached this agreement, albeit reluctantly, with the union, Cardiff excepted.

As part of the contract, S4C, the Welsh language broadcaster, puts out a live match every Saturday evening. The signatories have to abide by this requirement, Cardiff, on the other hand, since they have not signed any contract, insist that they play their home matches when they like, which is at 2.30.

By the end of this month, the other seven clubs in the Welsh League, premier division will have received at least £250,000. No cheque has arrived as yet at the Cardiff club.

The WRU has insisted this contract be signed in order for it to plan its future and so give stability to the game within its jurisdiction. This may be a laudable objective during a period when there is still so much uncertainty as to the path

European rugby is to take. In the meantime, a few clubs have been flown to suggest that Cardiff might wish to join forces with their English counterparts, either within the present system — which is highly dubious and would find, I would have thought, considerable opposition — or in a formation of a breakaway super league which, with the growth of the Heineken Cup, appears increasingly unnecessary.

European rugby needs to develop a strong domestic structure in each country to underpin the international fixtures and European competitions. Another grouping would add to the confusion and inevitably limit the number of participants at the high level at a time when rugby needs to expand.

Cardiff Rugby Club, which runs as a business, with a board of directors that is answerable to its shareholders, believes that it is totally unbusinesslike to sign a contract of such length. This is especially so in the present rugby

environment. In any case, the WRU cannot guarantee a continued stream of income to the club beyond the four-year period of the television contract. Cardiff believe it is only reasonable to sign an agreement for that known period.

Privately, the other clubs happily support Cardiff's claim. Had they been in the same position, they would have taken the same stance as Cardiff. They had no alternative, however. Their lack of cashflow demanded that the money came in quickly.

Cardiff, in contrast, is well supported by a number of wealthy patrons, particularly by a chairman, Peter Thomas, who is not only one of two brothers who have been the most successful Welsh entrepreneurs of the latter half of the 20th century, but who is listed annually to be among the 50 wealthiest men in the United Kingdom. He and his brother, Stanley, played for the club in the Sixties. He has, therefore, the interest of the club at heart and is not a fly-by-night dabbler.

"We want to be involved with what is in the best interest of Welsh rugby," he said. "But, as a business, we also want to reserve the right to make a judgment as to what is in the best interest of the club and its

supporters. We want to develop the game in the schools throughout our area. We want to improve the level of rugby and to push it forward for our supporters and as an enterprise. But we are continually being deflected. This kind of wrangling takes up a lot of energy and time that could be better spent elsewhere."

There are genuine concerns, too, that the television companies are unhappy, not only with the disagreements and the disruption to their schedules (live matches transmitted as not-quite-so-live, for instance), but with the topsy-turvy structure of the present season.

After this weekend, premier division rugby comes to a temporary halt with the so-called Challenge Cup taking its place, a competition in which no one has shown much of an interest. This is not the first time there has been this

kind of hiatus. It is no way to build up a television audience. Nor is it a way to generate support or interest through the turnstiles.

The withdrawal of television money would present a considerable problem for the Welsh clubs. The other clubs can therefore be grateful that Cardiff have agreed to accommodate the WRU with a six o'clock kick-off. Cardiff playing Pontypridd is a plum fixture. It is a top-of-the-table clash.

If this match had not been televised as scheduled, there is every chance that what is presently a whispering grievance among the television companies would help to instigate, with a threat of the withdrawal of contract revenue, a real cash crisis for the clubs.

This rancorous argument between Cardiff and the WRU looks set to be settled ultimately in the London law courts in the spring.

'Other clubs support Cardiff'

Northampton benefit from prop's power

Strongman Pagel makes them sit up in the front row

GENERALLY speaking, it is better to talk to the victim of an incident first, as the police acknowledge, than the alleged perpetrator. Besides, if the latter is the Northampton prop, Garry Pagel, a strong silent type, he will not want to discuss his role very much.

Gary Halpin, victim of a sustained, brutal, yet perfectly legal, working-over by the South African in a recent Allied Dunbar Premiership match, is perhaps the best witness with whom to discuss Pagel's formidable scrummaging power.

The London Irish tight-head prop spent much of the match with his head out of the scrum, "popped" by Pagel's enormous strength and excellent technique. Despite the experience, victim speaks in flowing terms of his tormentor.

"He is a very strong man and I cannot think of a better loose-head, in English rugby," Halpin said.

Peter Bills looks at one of the great exponents of the art of winning a scrum

"Pagel is an old-school prop, orthodox in style, so it wouldn't be true to say you come off the field battered and smashed to pieces. And he is certainly not a shulduggerish type of player."

"What he has is sheer power and superb technique. In most games, many scrums develop into stalemate. But not with Pagel against you. He looks to attack you all the time, he's like the French props in that respect. Even at defensive scrums, he is trying to pressure you, to mess you up."

Pagel, who sat on the bench for South Africa in the 1995 World Cup

final until making a late appearance as a replacement, reminds Halpin greatly of the former New Zealand loose-head, Steve McDowall. "Just like him; always going on the outside of the tight head. By doing that, there is a bigger gap between his hooker and himself. So the opposing tight-head comes straight up."

That is what happened to Halpin against Northampton. Pagel slid to his left in the scrums, so that instead of attacking the opposing tight-head under the chest, in the conventional style of most loose-heads, he was twisting the tight-head in and targeting him in the side of the body.

Only the most powerful of men can do this, because they need to change their foot position in the scrum. As Halpin said: "You don't feel him under your chest, but you feel his power coming all down the side of your body. There are very, very few loose-heads out there who can exert the type of pressure he can."

Pagel's motive was to force his opponent to move his feet to adjust. And once he has done that, his opponent's head pops out. "He has done his job then," acknowledged a rueful Halpin.

Another to have suffered from the power of Pagel's scrummaging was Jason Leonard in the British Isles match against South Africa's Western Province last June. The experience probably cost Leonard a Test cap, and England would die for a prop of Pagel's quality. Yet he had won only five caps for South Africa before coming to England last autumn "for a new challenge".

Northampton are already enjoying the benefit because Pagel has helped transform their entire scrummage. "We concentrate on the scrummage a lot more in South Africa," Pagel said. "Here, it is used only as a restart and two years ago it was the same in South Africa. But now it has changed, there are more scrummages again, and I think that will happen here. Good scrummaging is about operating as a unit and getting your timing and body positions right."

Pagel's decision to come to England effectively ended his international prospects, but he was clear in his mind even before he signed for Northampton. "I had a chat with Joel Stransky [the Leicester and South Africa fly half] and he was full of praise for what was happening here. I knew a change would be good for me."

Saracens wanted Pagel, but he accepted Northampton's offer of a two-year contract with an option on the third season. Ian McGeechan, his coach, is unstinting in his praise of Pagel's influence. But the 6ft 1in, 18 stone prop simply said: "The front row have their own ways of dealing with their opponents. Those outside the scrum, like the referees, don't really know what is happening in there."

Brothers in arms, indeed.



Pagel, right, won five international caps before joining Northampton

Johnson pulls out of Blackheath cup tie

BY MARK SOUSTER

SARACENS' defeat by Leicester on Boxing Day, which was to cost the club more than its position at the top of the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division, has also deprived them of the services of Gavin Johnson, the former South Africa full back, for the Tetley's Bitter Cup fourth-round tie at Blackheath on Sunday.

Johnson has damaged knee ligaments and is replaced by David Thompson, the England Under-21 international. Brendan Buniel, the wing, is another absentee with a calf strain and will be replaced by Matt Singer. Saracens, who beat London Irish on Tuesday to maintain the pressure on Newcastle, are resting Danny Greewood, the England lock, for the tie at the Rectory Field, with Paddy Johns stepping in. Brendan Reidy switches from prop to hooker. The club also announced yesterday that they had released Brimah Kebbie, a recruit from Huddersfield Giants rugby league club last season.

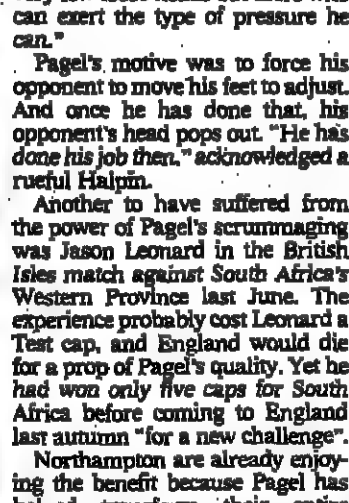
Newcastle meet Exeter and are also expected to take the opportunity to rest several established names, allowing fringe players their chance. One of those could be John Wilkinson, the talented England Under-18 international fly half, whom Alan Tait, the Scotland half, believes is a certainty to centre, believes. "He has everything," Tait said yesterday in the "thing." Tait said yesterday in the "thing." Tait said yesterday in the "thing."

"It was a big step for us and we couldn't wish for a better way to go into the new year," Tait said. He also felt that the performance dispelled the myth that Newcastle

are still only a collection of expensively-assembled individuals. "The way we played against Leicester was something money couldn't buy. It was like an international and if you had seen the reaction of the guys afterwards you would realise how much it meant. We have all gelled and the experience of guys like myself from rugby league has, I hope, helped younger guys come to terms with what professionalism is about."

The reigning champions, Wasps, play Harlequins in the cup on Sunday at Loftus Road. Harlequins, who scored 50 points against Wasps three weeks ago, will start the match on the back foot after their capitulation to Bristol on Wednesday. Andy Keast, the director of rugby, was swift in his condemnation after the game. "I think there will be people hurting after that defeat. I didn't enjoy what I said but it is over now and we must look positively at the cup game," he said. Harlequins are struggling to field a front row, with Massimo Cutitta, Keith Wood and Tom Billups all injured, and with doubts over the fitness of Jason Leonard and Danny Rouse.

Bristol hope that their win at the Stoop Memorial ground will kick-start a renaissance on and off the field. A financial rescue package that would clear the club's £3 million debts and secure its long-term future is expected to be announced next week. "It has been tough," Alan Davies, the director of rugby, said yesterday. "The fear that salaries wouldn't be paid has underpinned everything. It is only through the good offices of Arthur Holmes, the chairman, that they have been."



Leonard: felt brunt of Pagel's power in South Africa



Ballas and Larman cross their fingers as they anxiously wait to hear the results at the dancesport international championships

Olympic recognition inspires more boys to join the dance to stardom

Ruth Gledhill finds ballroom dancing with a fresh spring in its old quickstep

Record numbers of children are taking up ballroom dancing, now renamed "dancesport", in the hope of winning an Olympic gold medal.

The number of leading juniors applying to register with the English Amateur Dancesport Association, the sport's governing body, is expected to top 500 for the first time this year.

But hundreds more are reported to be signing on as beginners, the taking "medallist" exams in ballroom dancing schools around the country.

The full Olympic recognition granted to dancesport, which could see it in the Olympic programme by 2004 or 2008, has helped to make the activity fashionable once more after nearly three decades of decline.

"Olympic recognition has helped change the way it is perceived," Rita Thomas, of the association, said. "We are thinking of the dancers who are juniors and juveniles now as potential Olympic champions."

Instead of taking up ballroom dancing to enhance their social life, with future dinner-dances in mind, youngsters are starting to approach it as a sport, in the same way that they think of football and tennis. The change of perception is aided by the closure over the past decades of dozens of traditional dancehalls, meaning that increasing numbers of dancesport competitions now take place in school or local authority sports halls.

But the biggest growth is abroad. While Britain can still boast the top coaches, Christopher Hawkins and Hazel Newberry, and the reigning amateur and professional world champions,

Marcus and Karen Hilton, the junior and juvenile fields are an indication of the growing threat from countries in eastern Europe and elsewhere.

In Britain, however, a child who makes it to the top of the ranking charts, such as Mark Ballas, 11, who dances with Vicki Larman and is the son of the Open British Latin champions, Corky and Shirley Ballas, the rewards are high, with a life of international travel and sponsorship on offer.

According to John Elsbery, a member of the National Association of Sports Coaches, who

specialises in training juniors and juveniles and whose own sons, Mark and Craig, have been British open juvenile champions, children show a "natural competitiveness".

Writing in *Dance Addiction*, published this month (£25, D & J Enterprises) to help raise funds for the Dance Sport Foundation, a body set up to support young British dancers, Elsbery says: "At whatever level they may be taking part, most children will want to do better than their friends or indeed than the last time they undertook a test."

He adds: "In Britain, unlike the

rest of the world, dancesport is often considered as something of a joke by boys, or something that girls do. As far as my own two boys are concerned, they have always been quite open in their school and social life about their dancing and the standard that they have achieved."

"Whenever there has been any criticism they have responded by asking, when was the last time you had a pretty girl in your arms or travelled around the world doing what you enjoy most."

"Dancesport offers more now than ever to its young sportspeople and their future is as bright as any young golfer or tennis player."

Juvenile entries to one event alone at the first important competition of the year, in Blackpool this month, have doubled. And dance schools are surprised by the number of young boys starting to take up the sport.

Kathy Oldland, promoter of Champions of Tomorrow in Blackpool, said a record 160 junior and juvenile couples had entered the beginners, four-dance and ten-dance events.

Competitors include Ballas and Larman, the brother-and-sister team of Liam and Amanda Cooper, respectively 11 and 9, and James Forman and Lucy Preece, both 10.

Oldland, of Trident Dance Promotions, said that the increased interest could be connected with Olympic recognition. "Young people, especially girls, like to do the kind of movement that dancing involves," she said. "But schools are reporting an increase in the number of boys coming in, which is a surprise."



Tension mounts for Larman at an international contest



Ballas being tutored in some of the finer points of dancesport

**Register your team by tomorrow
for the new ITF FA Cup league**

addition to their present allocation. From now on, all new teams will receive 20 transfers for the duration of the season. Postal entries are no longer eligible but telephone entries must be received by 10am tomorrow in order to score points from the beginning of the FA Cup league competition, which is a crucial advantage. Entrants must be 18 years or over.

By competing in the FA Cup league, your players will automatically score points for matches played in the English and Scottish premier divisions during the 1997-98 football season as well and, if

By scoring points in the ITF, your team could win the monthly prizes of £1,000, a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and a pair of tickets to a premier league match by scoring the most points in any

scoring the most points in any one month. The mini league (student's and women's) also carry monthly prizes.

Portuguese in Antioch Villa
 Africain y Port Vale
 Colchester City y Manchester United
 Leeds United y Oxford United
 Everton y Newcastle United
 Liverpool y Coventry City
 Bolton United y Reading
 Derby County y Southampton
 Tottenham Hotspur y Tottenham
 Crystal Palace y Norwich City
 Wolves y Sheffield Wednesday
 Chelsea y Manchester United
 Watford y Wrexham
 Blackburn Rovers y Wigan Athletic
 Manchester y Bolton Wanderers
 Tim is he played on January 5, 2004



THE ITFA CUP LEAGUE



£10,000 to the Winner

HOW TO PLAY

Study the Cup draw (the Scottish draw will be made in January) and the list of players. Select your team as follows:

- You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.
- You must pick 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
- You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.
- Your team must be made up of 12 individuals at any one time but you may transfer your players in and out of your team as you wish, according to your transfer allocation.
- You may enter as many teams as you wish.

HOW TO ENTER BY POST

Once you have selected your team, simply complete the entry form and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to Times Newspapers to the address on the application form. Entries from outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are £30 sterling and may only be made by post.

HOW TO ENTER BY TELEPHONE

0891 405 011
(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

Once you have chosen your team, call the 24-hour hotline using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones have a 5 digit number). Instructions (you must not to not speak) the full list of selections (a list of 11 players and 1 manager) for each of the 12 positions (11 players and 1 manager) will be given. You must enter the name of your team, your name, address, telephone number, and a personal identification number. You must need to provide your team's name, address, telephone number, and a personal identification number. A new team will be created for you. You will be able to see the results of the league.

To enter, call

0891 405 011

(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

TEAM NAME	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div> <small>(Up to 35 characters)</small>	First Name _____ Surname _____ Address _____ Postcode _____ Daytime Tel _____ Cheque / PO No. _____ This year ITF incorporates separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry. <input type="checkbox"/> Women's League <input type="checkbox"/> Student League Entrants must be 18 or over to play in the ITF league, the Women's league and the Students' league.
Goalkeeper	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 1.2em; height: 1.2em;"></div>	
Full back	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 1.2em; height: 1.2em;"></div>	
Full back	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 1.2em; height: 1.2em;"></div>	
Central defender	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 1.2em; height: 1.2em;"></div>	
Central defender	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 1.2em; height: 1.2em;"></div>	
Midfielder	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 1.2em; height: 1.2em;"></div>	
Midfielder	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 1.2em; height: 1.2em;"></div>	
Midfielder	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 1.2em; height: 1.2em;"></div>	
Midfielder	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 1.2em; height: 1.2em;"></div>	
Striker	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 1.2em; height: 1.2em;"></div>	
Striker	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 1.2em; height: 1.2em;"></div>	
Manager	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 1.2em; height: 1.2em;"></div>	

Which age group are you? (tick box)
 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+ ☐

How often do you read The Sunday Times?
 Less than once a month ☐ 1-2 times a month ☐ 3-4 times a month ☐

Do you have a PC at home? Yes ☐ No ☐ If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers, please tick box ☐

Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Teen Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

Code	Name	Team	Price \$
10101	J. Leighton	Abersham	9.00
10102	D. Seaman	Arsenal	8.00
10103	A. Brown	Aston Villa	3.00
10401	D. Wilson	Barnsley	1.00
10501	T. Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.60
10601	S. Brannigan	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
10701	S. Kerr	Cardiff	4.00
10702	C. Nash	Cardiff	2.80
10801	D. De Gony	Chelsea	3.00
10901	K. Miller	Coveley City	1.80
11001	D. Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25
11002	K. Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00
11101	W. Jones	Durham County	1.00
11201	S. Dwyer	Durham United	2.00
11301	I. Wastons	Dundee	1.00
11401	S. Southerton	Dundee United	2.00
11501	O. Roussel	Hearts	3.50
11601	C. Hadd	Hibernian	1.50
11602	G. Gounthamson	Hibernian	1.80
11701	D. Lawford	Kilmarnock	1.00
11801	D. Murray	Leeds United	8.50
11901	K. Keller	Leicester City	3.00
12001	P. Smith	Liverpool	2.00
12101	P. Schmeissel	Manchester United	5.00
2201	S. Howie	Newcastle United	1.00
2202	A. Goren	Norwich	2.00
221	P. Jones	Rangers	5.00
222	P. Jones	Sheff Wednesd	2.00
223	P. Jones	Southampton	1.00
224	A. Muir	St. Johnstone	0.50
225	I. Weather	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
226	K. Miller	West Ham United	2.00
227	P. S. Jones	Wolverhampton	0.50

Name	Team	Price \$
L Olson	Arsenal	3.00
N Whiteburn	Arsenal	3.00
E Rutt	Arsenal	3.00
S Staunton	Aston Villa	2.50
A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50
S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.00
F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00
N Eades	Barnsley	0.50
M Thompson	Barnsley	0.90
D Barnard	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
J Hogg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
P Valley	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
N Cox	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
R Chubbart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
R Elliot	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
T Boyd	Celtic	3.50
I McKelvey	Celtic	3.50
J Colbourne	Celtic	3.00
G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00
D Pedraza	Chelsea	4.00
C Chappelow	Chelsea	2.00
F Shindler	Chelsea	2.00
D Burness	Coventry City	1.00
M Hall	Coventry City	1.00
R Nilsson	Coventry City	1.00
D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50
M Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.00
J Smith	Crystal Palace	1.50
C Powell	Derby County	1.50
D Yates	Derby County	1.00
G Rowell	Derby County	1.50
A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50
E Barnett	Everton	1.50
T Phelan	Everton	1.50
M Ward	Everton	1.50
E Loader	Hibernia	1.50
D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.50
G Kelly	Lancs United	2.50
R Robertson	Lancs United	2.50
S Guppy	Lancaster City	2.50
S Grimshaw	Liverpool	3.00
J McWhirter	Liverpool	3.00
R Jones	Liverpool	3.00
C Marshall	Manchester United	4.00
D Brown	Manchester United	3.00
G Hewitt	Manchester United	3.50
P Hewitt	Manchester United	3.00
S Watson	Newcastle United	2.50
R Barton	Newcastle United	3.00
J Bewford	Newcastle United	2.00
S Payne	Newcastle United	3.00
A Chisholm	Rangers	3.00
S Shandness	Rangers	3.00
W Dean	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
A Gilmour	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
I Dodd	Southampton	1.50
R Carroll	Southampton	0.75
J Williams	Southampton	1.75
J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
C Cox	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
J Hicks	West Ham United	3.00
Wey	West Ham United	1.50
Wey	West Ham United	2.00

Code	Name	Team	Pace Jan
30101	J O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00
30321	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00
30302	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00
30303	O Ortengren	Arsenal	2.00
30304	S Bond	Arsenal	2.00
30321	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00
30302	U Ekechi	Aston Villa	2.00
30401	A De Vries	Barnley	2.00
30402	A Moses	Barnley	0.20
30403	M Appleby	Barnley	0.20
30502	C Hendy	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
30504	S Hirst	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30505	S Hirst	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30601	G Tugwell	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30602	G Bergstrom	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30603	C Gargan	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30604	M Fish	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30701	E Kennell	Colts	1.00
30702	M Mackay	Colts	1.00
30703	A Stubbs	Colts	3.00
30704	M Pinner	Colts	3.00
30801	F Leach	Chelsea	2.00
30802	M Dumas	Chelsea	2.00
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50
30804	L Lumsden	Chelsea	2.50
30901	L Dale	Coventry City	1.50
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50
30903	P Wright	Coventry City	1.50
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50
		Crystal Palace	1.50

31201	S Presardy	Dundee United	2.00
31202	G Shields	Durham	1.50
31401	S Sible	Everton	2.50
31402	D Whelan	Everton	2.00
31404	C Tice	Hartlepool	1.50
31501	J Hughes	Hawks	2.00
31801	D Whithell	Hibernian	2.00
31802	G Haile	Leeds United	2.50
31803	R Boleman	Leeds United	2.00
31804	L Reddie	Leeds United	2.00
31901	M Gilroy	Liverpool	2.50
31902	P Keweenaw	Liverpool	2.00
31903	S Walsh	Liverpool	2.00
31904	S Pugh	Liverpool	2.00
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00
32002	D Holmes	Liverpool	3.00
32003	B Keweenaw	Liverpool	3.00
32201	H Miles	Manchester United	3.00
32101	D May	Manchester United	3.50
32102	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50
32201	P Newcastle United	Manchester United	3.50
32302	D Peacock	Manchester United	3.00
32303	D Peacock	Manchester United	3.00
32304	A Plattner	Manchester United	3.50
32401	S Pottel	Rangers	3.50
32402	J Bjerkedal	Rangers	3.50
32423	L Anonimo	Rangers	3.50
32424	R Oates	Rangers	3.00
32501	D Waller	Sheff Weds	2.00
32502	J Keweenaw	Sheff Weds	2.00
32503	P Attorrey	Sheff Weds	2.00
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	2.00
32702	C Lunnigan	Southampton	2.00
32704	K Monhou	Southampton	1.50
32801	S Mackay	St Johnstone	0.50
32802	C Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32803	C Cadden	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32804	C Cadden	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32805	R Farnham	West Ham United	2.50
32806	W West	West Ham United	2.50
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham United	2.50
32863	S Potts	Wigan	1.50
32804	I Preece	West Ham United	2.50
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50
33002	R Black	Wimbledon	2.50

Code	Name	Year	Price \$
40101	E. Jane	Aberdeen	2.00
40102	P. Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00
40201	M. Owens	Arnsdal	9.50
40202	P. Vivia	Arnsdal	3.50
40203	S. Hughes	Arnsdal	2.00
40204	R. Reddy	Arnsdal	2.50
40205	D. Platt	Arnsdal	1.50
40301	M. Draper	Aspen Villa	3.00
40302	J. Taylor	Aspen Villa	2.50
40401	N. Ruchman	Barnsley	3.00
40402	E. Tandler	Barnsley	2.00
40403	D. Shuman	Barnsley	1.00
40404	M. Bullock	Barnsley	0.50
40501	J. Wilkins	Blackburn Rivers	3.00
40602	S. McCrory	Blackburn Rivers	3.00

Code	Measure	Item	Price per
50101	B Double	Abandon	4.00
50201	Wright	Arsonal	7.50
50301	D Bargaining	Arsonal	6.50
50401	B Victim	Aston Villa	5.00
50501	C Cyrenene	Aston Villa	5.00
50601	S Middle	Aston Villa	3.00
50701	C Hristian	Barnsley	1.50
50801	J Hardsell	Barnsley	1.20
50901	S 1182	Barnsley	2.50
51001	C Maclellan	Barnsley	1.00
51101	K Colaninno	Blackburn Rovers	3.50

Date	Name	Value	Price/Sm
09/102	A Miller	Aberdeen	1.50
09/237	A Winger	Aberdeen	3.00
09/301	C Little	Aston Villa	2.50
09/401	R Wilson	Barnsley	0.50
09/501	R Hodgson	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
09/601	C Yodanis	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
09/701	C Brown	Cardiff	4.00
09/801	R Gault	Chelsea	3.50
09/901	S Simons	Coventry City	1.50
01/101	R Gault	Croydon Palace	0.75
01/101	J Smith	Derby County	2.50
01/201	R Gault	Dundee United	2.00
01/301	S Paton	Dunfermline	1.50
01/401	H Dundell	Everton	2.00
01/501	J McFadden	Fulham	3.00
01/601	R Keady	Gloucester	2.00
01/701	J Williams	Hibernian	1.50
01/801	G Graham	Leeds United	3.00
01/901	M O'Neill	Leicester City	2.50
02/001	M Burns	Liverpool	3.00
02/101	A McGuire	Manchester United	1.00
02/201	A McLaughlin	Middlesbrough	5.00
02/301	R Jones	Newcastle United	1.00
02/401	W Smith	Preston	0.50
02/501	R Jones	Reading Wootton	1.50
02/601	B Jones	Sheff Wednesday	0.50
02/701	P Blarney	Sheff Wednesday	2.50
02/801	B Jones	Sheff Wednesday	2.50
02/901	W Redrupp	West Ham United	0.50
03/001		Wimbledon	2.50

مکذا من الاما

ATHLETICS

Skah may yet run in Durham event

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

KHALID SKAH'S participation in the County Durham international cross-country meet tomorrow was in doubt yesterday after he was ordered home by the Moroccan Athletic Federation.

Skah, who is presently based in Paris, has been told by his national governing body that he must join up with his Moroccan team-mates at a training camp.

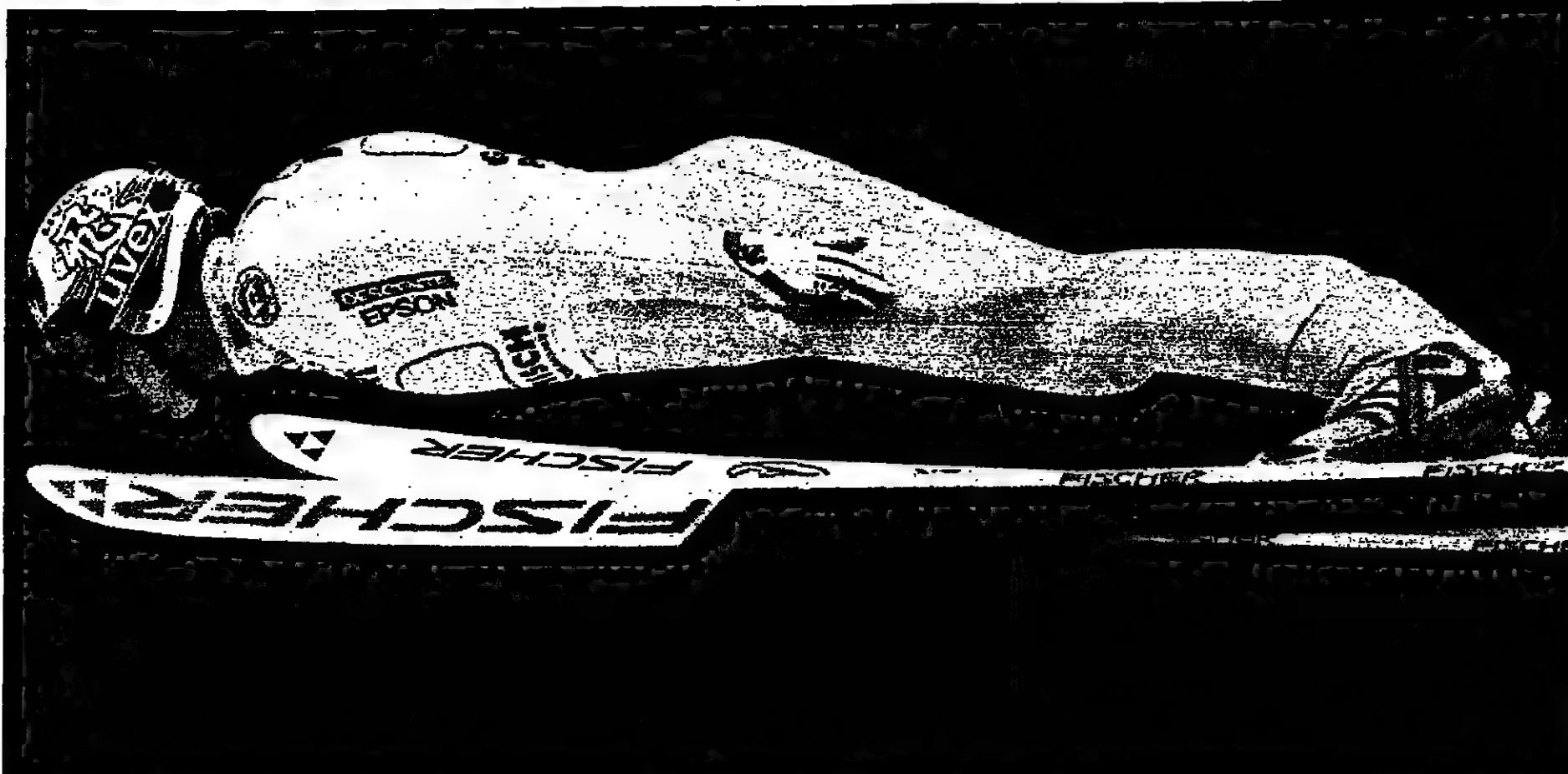
Morocco is hosting the world cross-country championships in March, and the Moroccans are keen to end the domination of the event established in recent years by Kenya.

Skah contacted the organisers of the Durham International to inform them of his predicament. He insisted to them that he is not prepared to accept the demands made on him and is asking his federation for an official reason why he must return home.

It is a difficult situation for Skah. Having won the individual world cross-country titles in 1990 and 1991, he would love to achieve a third victory on home soil.

However, as he pointed out to Nigel Gough, the race director, to achieve that aim it is only logical that he should be allowed to take part in IAAF world cross-country challenge events such as Durham.

Gough said: "The last I heard from Khalid is that he intends catching the flight from Paris to Newcastle this morning. He's extremely upset at what is going on and, as a senior international athlete and former Olympic 10,000 metres champion, he just cannot understand why he's being told that he cannot race in Durham or anywhere else."



High-flyer: Kazuyoshi Funaki led a clean sweep by Japan in the second leg of the Four Hills World Cup ski-jumping competition in Garmisch, Germany, yesterday. Results, page 23

HOCKEY: ENGLAND LOSE MIDFIELD PLAYER IN WORLD CUP AND COMMONWEALTH GAMES YEAR

Miller denies rift with coach led to retirement

By CATHY HARRIS

TAMMY MILLER has denied any suggestion that her decision to withdraw from the England team to tour Australia this month and retire from the international scene was due to differences with Maggie Souyave, the national coach.

Miller, 30, who was persuaded to return to bolster England's World Cup training party this season after stepping down after the Atlanta Olympics in 1996, said yesterday that she was unable to commit herself to England's rigorous World Cup and Commonwealth Games schedule for the next nine months.

"I couldn't give the necessary commitment," Miller, an actuarial assistant, said. "I was shocked to be left out of the original touring party and I spoke very openly to Souyave about it. But if there was to be any question mark over how I fitted in with her plans, it wasn't worth the

gamble of giving up my job. I really wasn't confident I featured in future plans."

Miller, the Clifton captain, has been capped more than 160 times for England and Great Britain. "I'm not bitter about it and I like Souyave," she said. "I've enjoyed ten really good years at the top and I'll definitely be going to Utrecht in May to watch England in the World Cup."

The loss of Miller's industry and craft in midfield will be keenly felt by the inexperienced, 18-strong squad where the emphasis is very definitely on youth. Souyave said yesterday that she may not replace Miller and hoped to speak to her in more detail about her reasons for withdrawing. "No places are guaranteed," Souyave said. "I have to take things like injury, form and fitness into consid-

eration. I respect her decision and that's the end of the story. Now we have to get on with the World Cup."

Carol Voss, the teenager, who has withdrawn from the Australia trip because of examinations, has been replaced by Sarah Blanks, her Leicester team-mate.

The England indoor team, which will defend their title in the European indoor championship in Spain at the end of this month will be announced next week.

Slough, runaway leaders in the premier division, begin the defence of their national indoor league title at Crystal Palace on Sunday. The newcomers, Doncaster, meet their northern rivals and former champions, Hightown, in their opening match. The top four clubs qualify for the play-offs at the same venue on the weekend of January 31 and February 1.

SOME of the best indoor talent in England, Scotland and Wales will be seen at the two-day DTZ men's indoor invitation tournament starting tomorrow at Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Worcester, and Wyre Forest Glades Arena, Kidderminster. The visit of a team from New York will add international flavour to the eleventh year of the competition.

Murray International Metals, from Edinburgh, the holders, hope to retain the trophy under the guidance of Andrew Stouffer, their coach. They can expect strong opposition from St Albans, the English champions, East Grinstead, Doncaster, Harborne and Old Loughtonians, who have two Scots, Hector and Ralph, in their squad. In addition, Sutton, Lee and Morrison have all played for England.

St Albans, coached by Andy Bowskill, are quietly confident of

adding to their laurels. Swansea, the Welsh champions, will also challenge strongly.

The Midlands is well represented by Barford Tigers and Stourport, both well stocked with indoor specialists. Capercallies represent further Scottish hopes while Hull add weight to the challenge from northern England. Combined Services have entered for the first time.

The 16 teams are divided into four pools with the winners and runners-up of each moving on to the knockout series. The third and fourth-placed teams in each pool will take part in a plate competition.

A fair play award for teams has been introduced for the tournament this year in memory of Tim Henderson, an official, who suffered a fatal heart attack during the junior World Cup tournament at Milton Keynes last September.

SWIMMING

Director defends drug-test plans

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

COMPETITORS in the world championships, which start in Perth next week, will be subjected to the world's most comprehensive drug tests, Alan Melchert, the event's executive director, said yesterday.

"It will be far in advance of anything you've seen because of the level of testing," he said. "We have been assured by the Australian Sports Drug Agency [ASDA] that this is probably as good as it gets."

Melchert said that all winners and record-breakers would be tested for a wide range of substances. There would also be random testing of the 2,500 competitors before and after events.

Melchert's assurance about the thoroughness of the testing came after the Australian Olympic swimming coach, Forbes Carlisle, said that extensive tests at the championships were likely to be a waste of money and could have the perverse effect of validating doping.

Carlisle, a member of the World Swimming Coaches' Association, said that any drugs were likely to be masked at the championships or be out of swimmers' systems. Money earmarked for the drug-testing programme could have been better spent on earlier testing, he claimed.

However, an ASDA spokesman insisted testing on the eve of the event was useful in detecting drug cheats.

Chinese swimmers, who go into the world championships having recorded five of the ten fastest times of 1997 in six of the 13 individual Olympic events, have been the target of most accusations of drug taking.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES

A chance to go the distance for Diana

Wanted: 20 people to run the marathon as fundraisers for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund



The Times has secured 20 places for its readers to take part in the 1998 Flora London Marathon and help raise more than the target of £5 million for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

The Times 20 will be part of Team Flora, in which all the runners will be fundraising for the Memorial Fund, one of the two official charities for the race next year. A special panel has been set up to select readers wanting to 'Run for Diana' over the historic distance through the streets of London on Sunday, April 26.

The Times will also publish the complete results of the race — from the international heroes and heroines at the front to the determined joggers at the back.

There has already been unprecedented interest in the 1998 event. A record 100,000 people applied to enter, including 20,000 who specifically responded to an



invitation to run for the Memorial Fund.

This year, it was televised in more than 100 countries and 600,000 people lined the London streets to cheer on the 29,135 competitors, who ran from Greenwich to the Mall, triumphantly finishing the course of 26 miles 385 yards.

The fund-raising for the

Memorial Fund will be poignant for many of the competitors next year because they will be running on the streets where the coffin of the Princess was carried at her funeral on September 6. It will also be 10 years since she was the official starter of the 1988 event.

Applications should not

come from people who have already been informed that they have been selected to take part in the 1998 race.

The names of the chosen 20 will be published in The Times on Monday, January 19 and the newspaper will then highlight some of the runners' stories and preparation in the build-up to the event itself.

THE TIMES DIANA TEAM COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Read the form below carefully: the judges will base their decision on what you reveal in this form. All the winners who take part in the marathon on April 26 will be asked to sign a pledge form relating to their commitment to raise funds for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and to remit such funds by May 31, 1998. Our

entry forms for the chance to win a place in the Diana Team should reach the following address by January 9, 1998: The Times Diana Team, Flora London Marathon, PO Box 5071, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FY. Judging will take place on January 14 and the winners will be informed by telephone by January 19.

Title..... Initials

Surname

Address

Day tel

Eve tel

Age Female ☐ Male ☐

Occupation

Which category do you wish to enter?

Men ☐ Women ☐

Do you suffer from any illness/es?

Have you been in hospital for an operation?

If yes, state what and when

Have you, a relative or friend, ever met Princess Diana? If yes, describe the occasion

Have you, a relative or friend, any connection with any of the Diana, Princess of Wales, charities, or a special reason for wanting to be in the Diana team? Describe your connection

Have you ever competed in a marathon before?

How much money did you raise?

For which organisation/s?

Have you raised funds for any organisation/s before?

Describe how much you raised and how you did it

Do you have any outstanding achievements of which you are proud? Tell us about them

What are your hobbies?

State, in not more than 50 words, why you deserve a place in this year's marathon

Please send the completed entry form to:

The Times/Diana Team, London Marathon,

PO Box 5071, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FY

EDUCATION

Mr Blunkett, please take note

John O'Leary
on the call for a
pan-European
spending initiative

British governments treat education more generously than most of their counterparts on the Continent, but they are no more successful at ensuring that the money goes to the places that need it most. That is the conclusion of a report published today, which is intended as the catalyst for a pan-European initiative by teachers.

The report by accountants at Coopers & Lybrand examines education funding in 21 European countries, although the data is sketchy for some outside the European Union. Commissioned by the biggest teaching unions in England and Scotland, the study will be used to back demands for international guidelines on the way public funds are allocated.

British teachers have long argued that, regardless of the amount devoted to education, money could be targeted far more effectively. There are wide disparities between different local authorities and different phases of education. Coopers & Lybrand's findings are inevitably dated, since the most recent figures available when the report was compiled were for 1993. But spending over an eight-year period shows that the pattern is repeated on an international scale. Not only does the budget for education vary enormously between countries, but so does the way in which it is divided up.

Expressed as a single per pupil figure for the whole of education, Switzerland spends four times more than Greece and almost eight times more than Turkey. The United Kingdom is about midway in the table.

But bald comparisons of public spending can be deceptive — for example, Ireland's high spending in the tables, right, reflects the youth of its population as well as its priorities. On most measures, the United Kingdom is among the big spenders on schools and education, generally. Only on pre-school education does it come out badly, and



Ready for school in France, which has set up education priority zones, to take account of socio-economic conditions

that has been reversed since the figures were compiled.

In most of Europe, including Britain, spending on education rose in real terms between 1985 and 1993. The trend has continued since then, according to the report. Yet the percentage of national wealth devoted to education has declined in the early years of this decade.

There may be any number of explanations for this phenomenon, including in Britain a decline in the school-age population. But the report's authors note that spending on education tends not to keep pace with growth in times of national plenty, but is spared the harshest treatment in recession.

The other noticeable trend is for more of the education budget to go on vocational training and tertiary courses, at the expense of schools. As in Britain, most of Europe has experienced an explosion in demand for expensive further and higher education courses.

With British controversy over the division of funds between primary and secondary education also mirrored elsewhere in Europe, the demands of post-school provi-

sion are an added complication. The division of education budgets has become more sophisticated during the current decade, with a number of countries devolving decisions to lower levels of government or, in the UK's case, to schools themselves. But the authors conclude that this has not

brought the degree of equity and fairness they might have expected in the distribution of resources. Throughout Europe, equality of opportunity has remained elusive. Some countries, such as France, with its education priority zones, have attempted to take account of socio-economic conditions. Others,

such as Finland, take particular account of special educational needs. But the report finds that all such systems are vulnerable to changing political priorities.

The authors say: "There is considerable, near universal, dissatisfaction over the way funding methodologies fail to reflect differences in pupil need. Given the essentially common nature of the problem even in different countries, there may be real scope here for a pan-European initiative."

As President of the European Trade Union Committee on Education and General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, Doug McAvoy is well placed to start the ball rolling. He knows that ministers will be reluctant to do anything that smacks of surrendering national powers, but he is optimistic that Britain's presidency of the EU will offer an opportunity to address the issues highlighted in the report. He has already sent a copy to David Blunkett.

European Comparisons in Education Funding is available from NUT, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD.

Spending as a percentage of total public spending				
	1985	1990	1993	1993, schools only
European Union countries				
Austria	11.1	10.6	10.2	6.7
Belgium	10.3	8.5	10.0	6.5
Denmark	11.8	10.6	13.0	7.9
Finland	12.9	12.9	12.8	7.8
France	n/a	10.3	10.4	7.4
Germany	9.8	n/a	8.5	6.2
Greece	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.4
Ireland	n/a	12.2	13.1	8.8
Italy	9.1	9.6	9.9	6.2
Holland	10.2	9.9	9.2	5.7
Spain	8.8	10.1	11.6	6.5
Sweden	n/a	9.3	10.8	6.9
UK	11.1	11.3	11.5	8.7
Countries outside the European Union				
Czech Rep.	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.3
Hungary	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.8
Iceland	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.8
Norway	13.2	n/a	15.0	8.1
Switzerland	15.0	15.4	16.1	11.9

Source: OECD Education at a Glance (1995)

Business class pays dividends

Iola Smith on how workers in Wales are helping their local schoolchildren

THE sight of parents in the classroom helping children to learn to read is common in Britain's primary schools. But in Wales, business people will be joining them when term restarts.

Business in the Community, an organisation with a proud record in education, thinks its members could play a key role in improving primary pupils' reading, speaking and spelling. Backed by companies such as Associated British Ports and British Telecom, the organisation has devised its Enhanced Literacy Project, to begin next term in selected primaries in the South Wales.

Among the first to benefit will be St Mary's Church in Wales School and St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic primary, both of which are in Cardiff Bay and serve a multi-ethnic and multilingual community.

Julie Bowman, St Mary's head teacher, says: "Sixty per cent of our pupils are Muslims whose first language is not English. The adult helpers will encourage them to communicate in English by listening to them read and discussing the story."

St Mary's business partners include managers from the Bank of Wales and doctors and nurses from Llandough Hospital.

St Cuthbert's is joining forces with the Welsh Health Common Services Authority, (Whicsa), a health service quango, which will send two people to the school for an hour a day. Lydia Bateman, a Whicsa manager and a St Cuthbert's volunteer, says: "We are based in the bay and this is an opportunity for us to get involved with the local community. We will be working

with six to seven-year-olds, introducing a story and then listening to them reading in small groups. We'll ask them questions about what happened in the story and look at basic grammatical forms and spellings that emerge."

All the volunteers are being trained to work in the classroom by both the participating schools and Business in the Community. The companies are providing new reading books and are being encouraged to improve the school premises.

The Bank of Wales, for example, refurbished St Mary's school, painted murals in the playground and improved the pupils' garden.

"As the adult helpers will be supporting the same children each day, they'll see them progress," says St Cuthbert's head teacher, Tim Cross. The school is also closely linked with Sedgwick Insurance.

A manager from the company sits on the school's governing body and is helping Mr Cross to develop his management skills. Mr Cross says: "It's useful to get management assistance to help with issues such as budget planning."

Both St Mary's and St Cuthbert's feed Fitzalan High School, Cardiff, where BT is running a Business in the Community mentoring project for pupils. The intention, therefore, is to extend children's links with the business community throughout their school careers.

After the pilot primary projects next term, Business in the Community hopes that the literacy initiative can be extended nationwide — provided, of course, that enough businesses will become involved with their local primary schools.

'We want to extend children's links with commerce'



Thousands of students attended a recruitment fair in north London, but fewer than 20 went to a teacher-training seminar

'Low image and pay, hopeless children — it's not for us'

Philip Neville finds disturbingly little interest in teaching courses

Video screens flickered inside the Teacher Training Agency's silver exhibition stand, displaying fast-moving images of life in school and the capital. At London's Graduate Recruitment Fair last month, real-life teachers were also on hand to enthuse about their work to entice students back to the classroom. In some cases, they were preaching to the converted, but many graduates appeared sceptical of the glossy approach. Only 16 of the 6,500 visitors to the fair attended the agency's seminar on teaching as a profession.

The agency's task is daunting. A recent report by the House of Commons education sub-committee said of the situation: "There is a crisis in teacher recruitment." MPs were especially worried about the 11 per cent drop in undergraduate teacher trainees in October 1997. In mathematics a third of training places for teachers is unfilled.

The agency's presence at the Business Design Centre in Islington last month represented the cutting edge of its £10 million recruitment drive, which has already included a cinema advertising campaign featuring celebrities who assert: "No one forgets a good teacher."

Among the most enthusiastic visitors to the Graduate Recruitment Fair was Suli Mish, a 21-year-old genetics student in the final year of his degree at Queen Mary and Westfield College, London. He had at-

ways wanted to be a teacher. "You are moulding people," he said. "I know that the pay is pretty poor, but if you really want to do teaching for what it really is, you have to accept that."

Julian Lopez, a 25-year-old graduate of Leeds and Newcastle universities, visited the agency's stand. Although he had been teaching English and French in Switzerland since February, he was not attracted to a career in British schools. He said: "State education has such a bad reputation. The problem is not so much the teachers or the methods they use, it's more the children and the society from which they come."

Other mature graduates who visited the display shared his unease about the wider social problems facing teachers. Joanne Mitchell, 27, has been a social worker for nine

years and is now in her first year of a psycho-social studies degree at the University of East London. She was intrigued by the National Mentoring Scheme, which aims to encourage ethnic minority entrants into teaching. But she would not become a teacher herself. She said: "I am not looking for a stressful job. I have been a social worker so I know about stress and I am not going into a profession that does not have a good salary."

Younger graduates who arrived at the agency display referred to their own experiences at school.

Susie Bertos, a 22-year-old Leeds University student of Classics and Italian, claimed teaching did not "stand out" as a career. "When I was doing my A levels," she said, "teachers were complaining that they had loads of paperwork after school: assessments, things like that." Her friend, Premani Desilva, a 21-year-old graduate in ancient history and archaeology at Birmingham University, agreed. "I think teachers don't get enough respect," he said. "I know that the Government just keeps giving them a bigger and bigger workload,

and the salary is pathetic." For those seriously considering teacher training, the funding situation remained a drawback. Jon Woolfson, 24, graduated in Economics and Politics at Leeds University. He was pleased to discover that the Government's new £1,000 course fees will not apply for the one-year Post-Graduate Certificate of Education courses. But it still meant "another year of commitment on a tight budget," he said. "That makes me wary."

Nonetheless, some graduates have been persuaded. Brendan Carr, a 21-year-old history of art graduate from Leicester's de Montfort University, worked for several years as a musician. He has already done some sixth-form teaching, and visited the agency stand because he wanted to teach history of art and eventually enter the educational department of a museum.

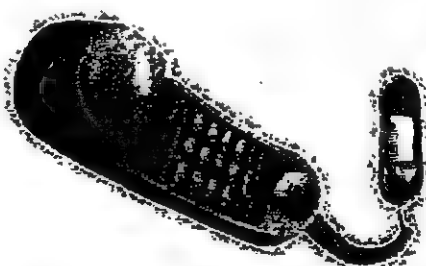
He commented: "I have found that I enjoy passing on my specialist knowledge about my subject, and after a lesson, I feel as though I have got a kick out of it. It is a little bit like doing a performance; that is the kind of buzz. You can feel happy that you've done some worthwhile work."

"Obviously, there are quite a few teachers who are demoralised and feel a bit let down and disappointed. You just have to shrug off those kind of views and keep your own objectives clear."

EDUCATION

BUSINESS COURSES

With a January start, it's not too late to apply for the Durham Part-Time MBA



Call 0191 374 2233

Apply now for one of Britain's most highly regarded AMBA accredited MBA courses, the Durham MBA. With Full-Time, Part-Time and Distance Learning courses specifically designed to extend your knowledge and develop your management skills. So if you're ambitious enough to become one of the world's best managers, phone for an application today.

For more information on the Durham MBA, contact: Durham University Business School, Leazes Road, Durham, Durham DH1 1TA. Tel: 0191 374 2233. Fax: 0191 374 2234. Email: MBA@Durham.ac.uk

NORD ANGLIA Education plc

Senior Management /Development Posts

Salary - Negotiable South Manchester
Nord Anglia Education Group, with its headquarters in Cheshire, Stockport, has one of the largest portfolios of Education based companies in the United Kingdom. Operations include English Language Centres, Independent Schools (home and abroad), School Inspection Services, Career Service contracts and Employment Services to Further Education. The scope for the business sector in education and training is growing at an unprecedented rate. Nord Anglia Education PLC, the first education company to be listed on the London Stock Exchange, is at the forefront of this movement. The company wishes to strengthen its development by appointing one or more professionals to assist in the identification and evaluation of initiatives and to contribute to the growth in its capacity to bid for and deliver innovative educational initiatives. We would expect candidates to have a wide knowledge of British education particularly in Early Years, Primary, Secondary and FE phases. Also important is an appreciation of the many initiatives that have been launched since the General Election. Substantial senior management experience gained mainly in the education sector, an ability to prepare effective bids through the procurement process and appropriate educational qualifications are desirable accomplishments. The successful applicant will also possess personal attributes such as energy, entrepreneurship, leadership, commerciality and excellent communication skills.

Chief Executive - Staff Agency to Further Education Sector

Nord Anglia provides lecturers in Colleges of Further Education on an agency basis. The unit is now in its third year of operation and it supplies staff to a significant number of colleges geographically dispersed throughout England. There is a data base of lecturers willing to accept placements.

The demand of this service is now expected to grow rapidly. The Company wishes to appoint a Chief Executive to take forward the business.

Applicants should have a sound knowledge of employment legislation and of the recruitment agency business. An understanding of Further Education would also be an advantage. Essential accomplishments include the ability to direct a marketing programme, strong leadership, energy and excellent communication skills.

Increased parties should apply in writing to Brian Richbell, Group Personnel Manager, Nord Anglia Education Group, 10 Eden Place, Cheshire, Stockport, SK3 1AT. Fax: 0161 491 8456. The closing date for applications is 19 January 1998. Those wishing to discuss any aspects of these appointments could telephone the information on 0161 491 8430.

COURSES

WANTED KEEN READERS

(Spot our errors!)

Would you like to earn £5 to £12 an hour part or full-time working from home reading books for publishers and other organisations. Many business professionals and others have been trained by Checkmate over the past seven years. (Read some of their comments in our Prospectus). People with no previous experience, but a keen interest in books, have completed their own training with our help in education and reading. Not everyone can be successful, but with application this could be the career you have been looking for. You need enthusiasm and a sharp eye. Your age and background is irrelevant. Send this advertisement and all the materials you can find for telephone use. We will send a FREE PROSPECTUS of our opportunities and similar training courses without obligation. Checkmate, 2 Southway West, Essex, EKI 1JG. Telephone: 01392 499488, Fax: 01392 499888

EASTER REVISION

EASTER COURSES AT HERTFORD COLLEGE OXFORD A-LEVEL & GCSE

Cherwell Tutors long established Easter Course. Intensive tuition in a demanding yet stimulating and friendly environment

Tel: 01865 242570 Fax: 01865 791761

Oxford Easter Courses

One year's study leading to international courses
1st/2nd YEAR A-LEVEL REVISION
Comprehensive or Modular Syllabus
Fully Residential at St. Hilda's College
April 6th - 19th and 19th - 19th
High quality courses run by ex-A-level students for A-level students only. Full board, single rooms, specialist tuition.
Tel: 01865 311577 (24 hrs)
18 January 1998, Oxford, OX2 0EL

EXAM TECHNIQUES

St Margaret's Oxford
Exam Revision
A-Level / GCSE / AS / A2
Small group / individual tuition
Residential in Oxford
Also available at
Aston House & Pymble Lodge
A complete product guide to
A, B or C grade courses
Prospectus: Steve Tait
Cardinal's Hill, Northampton,
Northants, NN2 6PU
01930 880741 or
01930 882222-24

COURSES

QUEEN'S QUALITY OFFICE SKILLS TRAINING

• RECEPTION, W/V, S/L, L/O
• RACE, ACC, POWERPOINT & PAPERMAKING
• COMMUNICATION SKILLS & CAREER PREPARATION
• OPENING BEST QUALIFICATIONS IN SMALL BUSINESS
• REEF START DATE JAN. 1998
Tel: 01753 567016 Contact

LANGUAGE COURSES

LEARN GERMAN IN 1998:

4 Week Intensive Courses from 12 January
New Summer: 18 February

GOETHE INSTITUT

German Cultural Centre
50 Prince's Gate
(Exhibition Road)
London SW7 2PH
Tel: 0171 411 3451
Fax: 0171 594 0210

ALL BOX NUMBERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

BOX No:
c/o TIMES NEWSPAPERS
P.O. BOX 3553,
VIRGINIA ST,
LONDON,
E1 9GA

Santa's bumper album bundles

Own up — who bought Wham's greatest hits? David Sinclair on the best of the Christmas compilation CDs

It is a curious fact that while all eyes are on the race for the No 1 single at Christmas, the far more lucrative battle for supremacy in the album chart goes completely unremarked. One reason for this is the stability of the album chart. Since November the top three positions have been monopolised by the Spice Girls, Celine Dion and the Verve, all with albums that are well on the way to sales of a million copies in the UK.

However, making up the backbone of the Christmas album chart are the "Greatest Hits" compilations which nobody talks about, but everyone buys. Last year produced a bumper crop of such retrospectives by artists including John Lennon, Hot Chocolate, Sling and the Police, Jimmy Nail, Robson and Jerome, Kenny C, David Gates and Bread, Bob Dylan and David Bowie. It is hardly a list of the most cutting-edge acts, but in cherry-picking the best moments from an artist's career these "Greatest Hits" collections offer an appealing introduction — or a timely reminder, depending on your point of view.

So, with the results now in, here is a critical guide to the winners of the "other" chart race: the seasonal scramble for the unofficial title of Christmas compilation of 1997.

ETERNAL
Greatest Hits
(1st Avenue/EMI) 21798,
£14.99

Released: October 20
Highest chart position: 2
Number of Top 20 hits: 14
UK sales to Christmas:
750,000

LEADER of the pack is Eternal's Greatest Hits, an album which fully justifies its gilt-edged generic title. The collection is remarkable not least for the swiftness of its arrival, just four years after the release of the group from Croydon's first single, *Say*. Can they really have had so many hits already?



Girl group Eternal in the foursome days before Louise went solo: top of the compilation album pops, their Greatest Hits got to No 2 and had sold 750,000 copies by Christmas

Having weathered the departure of founder member Louise Nording in July 1995, Eternal have quietly turned into one of this country's most consistently formidable chart acts, despite the fact that their songs are mostly bought in from a variety of sources.

Although somewhat given to tiresome power ballads à la Whitney Houston (*I Am Blessed; Someday*), they yield to no one in their street-smart delivery of high quality soul-pop tunes such as *Good Thing*

and *Angel Of Mine*. Their recent chart-topping performance of BeBe Winans's song, *I Wanna Be The Only One*, is a rare moment of untrammelled vitality.

WHAM!
The Best Of Wham! — If You Were There...
(Epic 489020, £13.99)
Released: November 24
Highest chart position: 4
Number of Top 20 hits: 10
UK sales to Christmas:
600,000

IT NOW seems strange to think that during their heyday in the 1980s, Wham! like Abba before them, were routinely derided as overexposed pop makeweights. The rapid sales of this compilation suggest

otherwise, and it would be a hard heart indeed that could not take some pleasure in such perfectly formed teen anthems as *Wake Me Up Before You Go Go*, *I'm Your Man*, *Freedom* and *Last Christmas*, especially during the party season.

Time often confers dignity on music from the lighter end of the pop spectrum, and clearly George Michael's early songs and the exuberant chemistry of Wham!'s performances have a far more enduring appeal than most pundits would once have given them credit for. Think about it next time you hear a cheap joke about the Spice Girls.

THE LIGHTNING SEEDS
Like You Do... Best Of
The Lightning Seeds
(Epic 489034)
Released: November 10
Highest chart position: 5
Number of Top 20 hits: 9
UK sales to Christmas:
600,000

MORE commercial than credible and never entirely convincing as an album act, despite their indie associations, the Lightning Seeds are a group for whom the idea of a "Greatest Hits" compilation might have been invented.

Singer and leader Ian Broudie is a personality-free songwriter from the old school, who can spin a pithy three-minute pop tune out of anything from a Sugar Coat-

ed iceberg to the glory of Euro 96 and the England football team (*Three Lions*). Full of upbeat melodies, catchy choruses and untaxing lyrics, *Like You Do...* is a monument to his canny craftsmanship, even if the froth does extend close to the bottom.

ENYA
Paint The Sky With Stars — The Best Of Enya
(WEA 20895, £13.99)
Released: November 3
Highest chart position: 4
Number of Top 20 hits: 4
UK sales to Christmas:
400,000

SOMETHING of a dark horse considering its low tally of hits, Enya's *Paint The Sky With Stars* nevertheless scores high marks for potential resonance. With their drifting, pseudo-choral arrangements and gentle Gaelic lilt, numbers such as *The Celts*, *Storms In Africa*, *Caribbean Blue* and *Orinoco Flow* offer a soothing musical balm for the spirit, although to the unbeliever it may sound more like wallpaper music for a New Age travelogue.

Such quibbles of taste aside, *Paint The Sky With Stars* has further confirmed Enya's status as Ireland's biggest musical export after U2. The only compilation of these four by a non-British act, it is by far the most successful abroad, with worldwide sales already past the four-million mark.

● Richard Morrison's Week in the Arts column will return next Friday

Dance fights back

Ending a year in which rock fought back fiercely against dance music's dominance of the cutting edge, the Essential New Year's Eve extravaganza at Alexandra Palace wisely fielded a bill packed with guitar-friendly crossover acts. Considering that this event's parent company went into liquidation just weeks before new year, and that the original headline band, Black Grape, the oddly muted atmosphere was perhaps understandable.

Even so, the eclectic bill made a decent fist of capturing the essence of contemporary dance music. Its dominant flavour was the so-called "big beat" sound which has largely replaced the clinical minimalism of early 1990s electronic

LIVE GIG

Essential

Alexandra Palace

music with distorted hip-hop drum loops and guitars sampled from heavy rock. The duo generally credited with pioneering this muscular hybrid are the Chemical Brothers, who weighed in with a thunderous two-hour DJ set in the early hours of 1998.

Before then, though, several other variations on the big beat theme were also on offer. Fluke, the first live act on the main stage, demonstrated just how limited and formulaic this fashionable new genre can be, with an hour of morose chants and grindingly repetitive percussion.

Thankfully, other live acts, such as Dirty Beaches and the Lo-Fidelity All-Stars, seemed altogether more comfortable straddling the border between dance and rock. The former combined funky basslines, guitars and drums with energetic party spirit and gentle self-mockery. The latter married the punky sneer and booty swagger of Oasis to punishing mechanical grooves and spindly disco beats.

If any one act could be said to have epitomised progressive dance music in 1997 it must be Roni Size's Reprazent. This Bristol-based drum-and-bass collective topped a triumphant year of awards and critical plaudits with what was effectively the headline slot here, taking the stage in the main hall just after the new year was ushered in by a barely audible Highland piper.

With their stock currently running high, Reprazent were naturally afforded a rapturous welcome, even though this cavernous venue did scant justice to their whirling collages of intricately textured, multilayered, electronic percussion. Much of their trademark craftsmanship was lost in the hall's booming acoustics, so it fell to singer Onalee and rapper MC Dynamite to carry the set with old-fashioned showmanship.

As dawn approached other treats included the live debut of the British techno pioneer Dave Angel and the eccentric antics of hip-hop prankster — and one-man band — Les Rhythmes Digitales. But not even these exotic morsels could save this uneven event from adding up to less than the sum of its parts. Thus a confusing year in dance music came to a suitably muddled end.

STEPHEN DALTON

Primo-time jive

NOW is the season to be jiving. When the day finally comes for George Melly to hang up his fedora and play the last of his new year residencies at Ronnie Scott's — the jazz world's annual pantomime — Ray Gelato and his big little swing band might just fill the gap.

Perhaps the singer-saxophonist should start building up a stock of off-colour jokes and some louché anecdotes about the early years of Surrealism. Like Good Time George, Gelato is not ashamed to be an entertainer. Jazz has grown so solemn in its autumnal years that there is no harm in being reminded of its reckless, beer-swilling youth.

In Gelato's case, the role model is the Italian-American bandleader Louis Prima, known to generations of filmgoers as the voice of King Louis in Disney's *The Jungle Book*. He also made a posthumous comeback this year in Stanley Tucci's gourmet film *Big Night* as the man who never came to dinner. But his music certainly made its presence felt.

Gelato, a stocky figure with a neat line in period suits, captures Prima's vocal style perfectly on a boogied-up version of Dean Martin's hit *That's Amore*. If he is sometimes a diffident front

JAZZ

The Ray Gelato Quintet
Pizza on the Park

man, he makes up for it with pungent tenor saxophone solos in the spirit of the old showman Illinois Jacquet.

Alex Garnett looks after the other alto and tenor duties in a Brylcreem-era group which, in between the broad, occasionally over-the-top comedy and ad libs, seldom skimps on musical values. Along with trumpeter Enrico Tomasso and trombonist Andy Baker, he made the most of crisp horn arrangements — on up-beat material as varied as *Let The Good Times Roll* and *It Ain't Got That Swing*.

CLIVE DAVIS

Meanwhile, is something stirring on the Complete Unknowns Coming Out of Nowhere front?

Potentially great in '98

If you are a regular viewer of *Top of the Pops*, you will already know that 1998 is shaping up to be a beaniefest of happiness and joy. That is mainly because TOTP presenter Jayne Middlemiss has obviously been taken to one side and told to stop doing her "sexy" face after each link.

This "sexy" face, which has caused pop fans across the country to writhe in embarrassed agony, consists of Middlemiss saying something like "I scream, you scream, we all scream for — Primal Scream!" and then contorting her face into something which is no doubt supposed to be sultry and alluring, but merely looks as if a member of the audience has trodden on her foot while wearing a pair of shoes made of barbed wire, piranha teeth and mouse-traps. This has stopped, so we can at least begin 1998 without our fists stuffed in our mouths.

What else will happen in 1998? Well, printing presses will be stopped when one of the Spice Girls (the smart money is on Scary) cuts her hair very short; and Liam Gallagher slavishly follows John Lennon's Pop Star Rule Book and gets into conceptual art. We can all expect two fried eggs nailed to a wall in the

Saatchi Gallery, under the title *Our Patsy*, by May.

What with these inevitable thrills, and a whole slew of genuinely exciting bands, things are looking better than this time last year, when we all had to pretend that Symposium, Tiger and Bennet were going to change the world for the better in 12 months, rather than slightly for the worse, as was the case.

Catania, fronted by that duchess of the Cardiff council estate Cerys Matthews, are finally going to mark charts as their territory with sprays of glittering, malevolent guitar-pop, and one of the finest voices to grace the small, sensitive bones of the inner ear since Björk first warbled in an igloo, aged two. The forthcoming single *Scully and Mulder* has X-Files novelty value to grab the attention; the subsequent album, *International Velvet*, has so many transcendent moments that you will have to tether your legs to a bedpost, lest you levitate from pure joy.

But of course, one can't levitate all the time. There are floors that need vacuuming,

motorways that need driving down, and nights out to prepare for that need a boy-pop soundtrack. Catch — three teenage boys determined to replace the terrifying levels of gay kitsch irony in boybands with some indie/northern soul pop bliss — have their second single, *Dive In*, out in January.



CAITLIN MORAN

They will probably be the only band playing the Millennium Dome in 1999 who are not animatronic.

And on the Complete Unknowns Coming Out of Nowhere front, there are three reasons to resist the urge to stake your ears on a losing hand at cribbage in the new year TV lull. The first are the

Montrose Avenue, an absurdly good-time Byrdsian racket with harmonies so pure they exfoliate the soul. They have their second single out sometime in February, and if it is as good as the B-sides of their first single, they will pick up fans as easily as a hedgehog walking through a pile of marshmallows.

The second are Air: imagine if the theme-tune from *Man About The House* rolled up a jazz cigarette and rumba'd around your living room at four in the morning. If a tiny part of you has ever longed to have a space age bachelor pad, in which you would hold parties that had Kraftwerk chatting about the US Cuban embargo at one end of the room, and Felt playing strip-poker at the other end, then this is the soundtrack to that imaginary soirée. And as Air are French, it happily means that you can issue invitations with "Soirée" printed on them without feeling a tiny bit nobby. Their debut single, *Say Boy*, is out on February 9.

The third band are something very special indeed. The Unbelievable Truth are a

three-piece from Abingdon, Oxford, who have picked up the threads of rock's semi-forgotten geniuses — American Music Club; the latter, spooked years of Talk Talk — and woven an enchanting melancholic blanket from it.

It's the kind of music that, when played on a Walkman while walking through the frosty winter city streets, makes you glide like a god-dess. Although talking about a band's "musicality" is the kind of thing that should usually have you hiding under the bed, in the Unbelievable Truth's case it's completely cherishable: a vast, epic, limitless skill that means that their debut album, out sometime in spring, is undoubtedly the first gripping chapter of one of the 1990s' most eagerly awaited, on-going novels.

The fact that the singer and main songwriter, Andy Yorke, is the brother of Thom Yorke from Radiohead only makes them more intriguing. It also confirms the suspicion that the Yorkes spent the entire late Eighties playing Scrabble with chord structures.

The fact that you got a record token for Christmas — instead of a Lamborghini and Peter André's head on a spike — doesn't seem so bad now, does it?

TOWER no music, no life
the 1998 real sale

2nd - 14th January 1998

over 3 million items marked down including everything! save up to 40%

that proves it: our md is a nut!

Locations: Kingston, Camden, Bowwater, Glasgow, Birmingham, Dublin, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth, Reading, Southampton, Swansea, Telford, Torquay, Walsley, Warrington, Wolverhampton, York, and many more.

All stores open late on Saturdays

Damages for breach of tenancy

Solicitors: Burley & Gough
Petersfield; Bruton & Co
Fareham.

Solicitors: Mr. Michael Tink
Flavering, Hunt & Hunt &
Houghtons, Romford.

CHANGING TIMES

Late falls wipe out rises

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
100.00	99.00	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
100.00	99.00	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	BANKS				
100.00	99.00	BANKS				
100.00	99.00	BANKS				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	BREWERIES, PUBS & REST				
100.00	99.00	BREWERIES, PUBS & REST				
100.00	99.00	BREWERIES, PUBS & REST				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS				
100.00	99.00	DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS				
100.00	99.00	DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	ENGINEERING VEHICLES				
100.00	99.00	ENGINEERING VEHICLES				
100.00	99.00	ENGINEERING VEHICLES				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	FOOD MANUFACTURERS				
100.00	99.00	FOOD MANUFACTURERS				
100.00	99.00	FOOD MANUFACTURERS				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	LEISURE & HOTELS				
100.00	99.00	LEISURE & HOTELS				
100.00	99.00	LEISURE & HOTELS				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	Mining				
100.00	99.00	Mining				
100.00	99.00	Mining				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	PROPERTY				
100.00	99.00	PROPERTY				
100.00	99.00	PROPERTY				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	TELECOMMUNICATIONS				
100.00	99.00	TELECOMMUNICATIONS				
100.00	99.00	TELECOMMUNICATIONS				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	TEXTILES & APPAREL				
100.00	99.00	TEXTILES & APPAREL				
100.00	99.00	TEXTILES & APPAREL				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	WATER				
100.00	99.00	WATER				
100.00	99.00	WATER				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET				
100.00	99.00	ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET				
100.00	99.00	ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	BRITISH FUNDS				
100.00	99.00	BRITISH FUNDS				
100.00	99.00	BRITISH FUNDS				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	SHORTS (under 5 years)				
100.00	99.00	SHORTS (under 5 years)				
100.00	99.00	SHORTS (under 5 years)				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	LONGS (over 15 years)				
100.00	99.00	LONGS (over 15 years)				
100.00	99.00	LONGS (over 15 years)				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	INDEX-Linked on projected inflation at				
100.00	99.00	INDEX-Linked on projected inflation at				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
100.00	99.00	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
100.00	99.00	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	BANKS				
100.00	99.00	BANKS				
100.00	99.00	BANKS				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	BREWERIES, PUBS & REST				
100.00	99.00	BREWERIES, PUBS & REST				
100.00	99.00	BREWERIES, PUBS & REST				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS				
100.00	99.00	DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS				
100.00	99.00	DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	ENGINEERING VEHICLES				
100.00	99.00	ENGINEERING VEHICLES				
100.00	99.00	ENGINEERING VEHICLES				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	FOOD MANUFACTURERS				
100.00	99.00	FOOD MANUFACTURERS				
100.00	99.00	FOOD MANUFACTURERS				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	LEISURE & HOTELS				
100.00	99.00	LEISURE & HOTELS				
100.00	99.00	LEISURE & HOTELS				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	Mining				
100.00	99.00	Mining				
100.00	99.00	Mining				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	PROPERTY				
100.00	99.00	PROPERTY				
100.00	99.00	PROPERTY				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
100.00	99.00	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
100.00	99.00	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	BANKS				
100.00	99.00	BANKS				
100.00	99.00	BANKS				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	BREWERIES, PUBS & REST				
100.00	99.00	BREWERIES, PUBS & REST				
100.00	99.00	BREWERIES, PUBS & REST				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS				
100.00	99.00	DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS				
100.00	99.00	DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	ENGINEERING VEHICLES				
100.00	99.00	ENGINEERING VEHICLES				
100.00	99.00	ENGINEERING VEHICLES				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	FOOD MANUFACTURERS				
100.00	99.00	FOOD MANUFACTURERS				
100.00	99.00	FOOD MANUFACTURERS				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	LEISURE & HOTELS				
100.00	99.00	LEISURE & HOTELS				
100.00	99.00	LEISURE & HOTELS				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	Mining				
100.00	99.00	Mining				
100.00	99.00	Mining				

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	PROPERTY				
100.00	99.00	PROPERTY				
100.00	99.00	PROPERTY				

Construction companies tell PFI to speed up

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE Private Finance Initiative, the Government's programme to bring private cash into public infrastructure building, has come under renewed attack from the construction industry.

PFI projects are still proving slow to get off the ground and the amount of project risk expected to be borne by business is unreasonable, the Construction Confederation has complained. It has given warning that some projects may be jeopardised by the clash between business and the Government over how much risk is loaded on to contractors for schemes such as building hospitals and roads.

In a forecast for the new year, Paul Shepherd, chair-

man of the confederation, said: "The construction industry has committed huge resources to the PFI, but there are still a minimal number of projects that have been signed up. It is essential, both for the wider economy and the future workload of the industry, not to mention the continued support of the major construction contractors - that the PFI really does take off by no later than mid-1998."

Although the Treasury has streamlined the previously much-criticised programme, construction groups are lobbying for further change.

The confederation's warning comes after controversy over proposed changes to accounting standards for PFI projects. Fresh requirements for public-sector organisations to take a large part of the cost of PFI on their balance sheets would curb the amount of work done, builders have argued. The big advantage of the PFI is that the public sector can shift expenditure into the private sector, and such an accounting change would erode much of that.

Although PFI work will be important for the construction industry's prospects, Mr Shepherd forecast that 1998 will see "reasonable growth" for the industry overall after a patchy 1997. In spite of caution over effects of cuts in government funding on public-sector housing, he said: "I expect 1998 to be a year of steady expansion for construction."

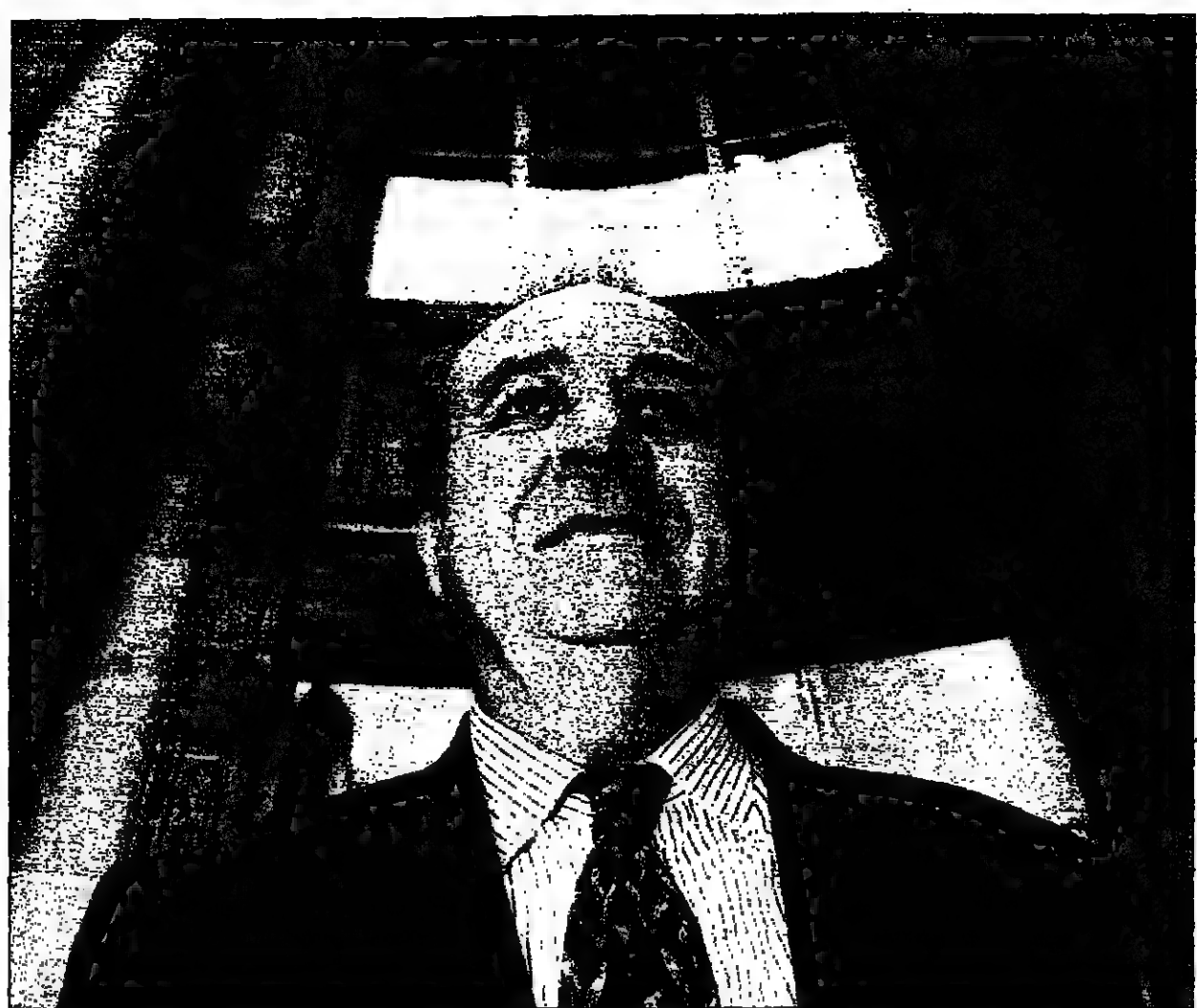
Butte set for return to market

SHARES of Butte Mining, suspended since January 1997, may be set to make a return to the stock market later this month if the company successfully concludes negotiations to acquire two energy-related resource businesses (Martin Barrow writes).

Detailed terms are likely to be agreed before the end of the month, subject to due diligence and shareholder approval.

The Stock Exchange has threatened to cancel Butte's share listing unless the company is able to announce acquisitions by January 31. Butte is currently a "cash company" as defined by the exchange. It has been near to insolvency for most of the decade.

The company fought a long-running legal battle against former managers and advisers and finally settled the lawsuits this year after declaring itself unable to pay the legal costs. In the year to June 1996, the most recent period for which accounts have been published, the company incurred losses of £515,000 before tax after spending about £1.2 million on legal fees.



Pierre Bonelli's company, Sema, capitalised at about £1.5 billion, is one of the largest in the new sub-sector

New index for high-tech hopefuls

By Chris Ayres

INVESTORS hoping to spot the next Microsoft before it makes the big time will have their task made easier today, when a separate share index to follow information technology companies is launched.

The index, seen by many as long overdue, has been created by FTSE International, the joint venture between the London Stock Exchange and the Financial Times. Until recently, the Stock Exchange has not known how to categorise high-tech companies. Information technology businesses have often found themselves lumped together with recruitment specialists to domestic appliance manufacturers. As a result, many of

the more promising companies have looked across the Atlantic for a listing.

In the US, the Nasdaq market is seen as an ideal breeding ground for start-up technology stocks. One example is Yahoo!, the Internet information provider, which was started by two college graduates in 1994 and now has a capitalisation of more than £1.2 billion.

Mark Makepeace, managing director of FTSE International, said: "The positive response to the new sub-sector led us to introduce the new index from day one of the introduction of the classification." He thought the index would help to raise the profile of high-tech companies. It would include information technology securities within the FTSE All Share index and will

be calculated at the end of each business day. There will be about 90 companies in the sub-sector, with a handful from the Alternative Investment Market.

Sema, whose chief executive is Pierre Bonelli, will be one of the largest constituents, capitalised at about £1.5 billion, while Stordata Solution will be worth £5 million.

Markets already indicate that the index will benefit London-listed companies, with shares in the five biggest information technology businesses rising after FTSE International's plans were revealed earlier this month. However, the market for European software and services has grown at about 20 per cent each year since 1990.

Former England footballer issues writ for £600,000

By Caroline Murrell

JOHN FASHANU, the former England footballer, has issued a writ against Guardian Royal Exchange for £600,000.

The writ, which has also been issued on behalf of Mr Fashanu's wife, Melissa Fashanu, concerns the activities of Centrust, a former tied agent of Guardian in Croydon, Norfolk. In 1988, Mr Fashanu gave Patrick Reynolds, then the head of Centrust, £300,000 to invest. Centrust then collapsed and Mr Reynolds fled

to Africa with £8 million of investors' money.

Centrust was not licensed to hold depositors' money, and Mr Reynolds was eventually sentenced to four years in jail in 1993. Mr Fashanu claims that he was told that his investments were worth £600,000. He says he has not yet received any money in compensation from Guardian.

In 1992, Guardian was fined £100,000 because of the activities of Centrust. Guardian has declined to comment on the writ.



Fashanu: "no compensation"

US judge gives ruling in favour of Baby Bells

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON

A US JUDGE has rejected as unconstitutional provisions of a landmark federal law that restrict the regional telecom companies, known as Baby Bells, from entering the \$80 billion long-distance telephone market.

SBC Communications, one of five Baby Bells, has welcomed a ruling by Judge Joe Kendall of Dallas, who agreed with SBC's argument that the 1996 Telecommunications Act was unconstitutional because it discriminated against Baby Bells. The ruling, hand-

ed down late on Wednesday, is expected to send shock waves through the telecom industry and throw into further disarray the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to break open the \$100 billion local phone market controlled by the Baby Bells.

The 1996 Act barred the Baby Bells from offering long-distance dialling until they opened their own local phone monopolies to long-distance carriers such as AT&T and MCI and others seeking to offer rival phone services.

Hotline is launched to catch rogue directors

A telephone hotline to catch defiant directors and undischarged bankrupts who disregard disqualification orders made against them is being launched today by Nigel Griffiths, Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister.

The hotline will be open 24 hours a day to enable people to pass on information about directors and bankrupts with the intention of enforcing the disqualification.

Mr Griffiths said: "These people need to be caught and I am confident that this hotline will make it much easier for concerned members of the public to help me, and the Insolvency Service, pinpoint those who are trying to beat the system."

The initiative coincides with publication of the latest disqualification statistics, which reveal that more than 250 directors have been banned by the courts from running companies over the past three months. The total number of directors banned under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 has now exceeded 4,800.

The Disqualification Hotline is on 0845 6013546.

HK Telecom's £384m deal

Hongkong Telecom, in which Cable & Wireless has a 52 per cent interest, has agreed to buy Pacific Link Communications, the mobile phone company, for HK\$4.84 billion (£384 million). The acquisition creates the largest mobile phone operator in Hong Kong. The vendors are First Pacific, which owns 65 per cent of Pacific Link, and Vodafone, the UK mobile phone company, which holds 35 per cent.

First Pacific will join forces with Hongkong Telecom's CSL and together the businesses will have 800,000 customers. Pacific Link earned net income of HK\$310 million in 1996. Hongkong Telecom said that the merger would yield significant economies of scale.

House forecast

House prices are expected to rise by about 6 per cent this year and by about 10 per cent in 1999, according to a report by Merrill Lynch, the investment bank. Prices will increase much less rapidly in real terms until about 2001, when, for a short time, they are expected to be flat, the report said. By the end of 2007, "real house prices" will be rising at an average rate of 2.5 per cent. It said. Real house prices are defined as the increase in nominal house prices less the rise in retail price inflation.

New York: 908.25 (-7.72)
Dow Jones: 970.40 (-0.44)
S&P Composite: Closed

Tokyo: 10722.76 (-32.45)
Nikkei Average: Closed

Hong Kong: 10722.76 (-32.45)
Hang Seng: Closed

Amsterdam: 10722.76 (-32.45)
AEX Index: Closed

Sydney: 2016.5 (-15.1)
ASX: Closed

Frankfurt: 10722.76 (-32.45)
DAX: Closed

Singapore: 1528.94 (-15.01)
Straits: Closed

Brussels: 10722.76 (-32.45)
General: Closed

Paris: 10722.76 (-32.45)
CAC-40: Closed

Zurich: 10722.76 (-32.45)
SIX: Closed

London: 10722.76 (-32.45)
FTSE 100: 3289.3 (-3.4)

FTSE 200: 5135.5 (+3.2)

FTSE 250: 4787.6 (+19.5)

FTSE 350: 2449.7 (+3.2)

FTSE Europe 100: 2449.7 (+3.2)

FTSE All-Share: 2411.0 (+3.2)

FTSE Non-Financials: 2411.0 (+3.2)

FTSE Financials: 1152.1 (+3.3)

FTSE Govt Secs: 101.53 (+0.24)

Bargains: 24317

SEAQ Volume: 24317

US\$ 1.4433 (+0.0113)

German Mark: 2.9538 (+0.00119)

Exchange Index: 104.4 (-0.4)

Bank of England official close (p.m.)

CDSX: 1.9697

CDX2: 1.2300

RPT: 199.6 Nov (3.7%) Jan 1997-100

APX: 198.0 Nov (2.6%) Jan 1997-100

Abbey Nat Dublin: 93%

Autologic: 284% + 8

BCO Technologies: 166%

Bond Ind Software: 89%

Boustead: 19%

Comland Comm: 58

Enlight (200): 251% - 3

Fing Gerd Unif: 181%

General Inds: 35%

Gooch & Housego: 133%

Longmed (133): 142%

Maritime: 108%

Market Link Publ: 55%

Northern Recruit: 140%

Optoplax: 144%

Property Asst: 7%

Range Cooker Comp: 6%

Rapid Technology: 95%

Reynolds Vehicle: 108%

SCS Upholstery: 110%

Second Scot 27 Dv: 104%

Symet: 233% + 1

Vanguard Med Wtr: 46%

Wyndham Motor: 113%

Boyle Ind n/p (800) 402

Taylor Nira n/p (60) 25% + 1

Closing Prices Page 36

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

Dec: 1094.50 Mar: 1177.117
Mar: 1094.50 Mar: 1177.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

Dec: 1094.50 Mar: 1177.117
Mar: 1094.50 Mar: 1177.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
May: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Jul: 1106.117 May: 1187.117

Dec: 1106.117 May: 1187.117
Mar: 1106.117 May

THE PEP DISCOUNT DIRECTORY

**SAVE up to
5%
on a PEP**

This 27 page A4 guide is **ESSENTIAL** reading for all PEP investors. It lists performance & charges as well as the discounts we can offer on hundreds of Unit Trust PEPs. If you want to obtain up to **£300 discount/cashback** on a full PEP, Send for details **TODAY**.

FREE

CALL 0800 850 661

FOR A FREE COPY PLEASE CALL FREE ON

0800 850 661

Issued by
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD

Man (4576734) 4.30
 2.00
 4.10 Harry Springer 8.00 Rolands 8.50
 Cheap Kids 8.50 Ready, Steady, Cook! 7.00
 Rescue 911 7.20 Mysteries: Megar and
 Mystery 8.00 Harry Springer 9.00
 11.00 The Fast Two 12.00 Cosi

ZEE TV

7.00am Jeagran 7.30 Ato Ato 8.00
 8.00am 8.15 Music 8.30 Adira 8.50
 Dash 10.00 Mythe Takko Do 10.30
 Cinema 11.00 Zake Ka Sakar 11.30
 Ram 12.00 Andri 12.30am Damar 1.00
 PULM 6.00 Hay Ho Ho 6.40 Antichan 6.50
 7.00 8.00 Mura Pasen 8.50 Lehen 7.00
 Top 10 7.30 Must Meet Ha Zing
 News 8.30 Parampara 8.50 Zing

MTV

The 24 hour music channel

VH-1

The video hits channel



SPOT PRIZE 36

New index
for infotech
hopefuls

BUSINESS

HARD MAN 38

Brown ruled
by desire to
hang tough

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY JANUARY 2 1998

Property market attracts record total from overseas

By MARTIN WALLER

THE booming property sector has attracted a record level of overseas investment, according to figures to be published shortly, with foreign buyers paying a total of £4.2 billion for British commercial properties in 1997.

This is almost twice the £2.2 billion they spent in 1996 and far ahead of the previous record years

of 1989 and 1990, when the total topped £3 billion. However, property experts say the UK market, although unlikely to perform as well again this year, is not heading for the sort of crash experienced in 1991 and 1992.

The figures come from a forthcoming study into inward investment in Britain from DTZ Debenham Thorpe. The property adviser says there is no reason for

this flow of funds to dry up. Peter Evans, research director, says: "The fundamentals for the UK property market look good for the next two to three years at least. We expect continuing high levels of inflow, if not at the level of 1997."

His forecast for 1998 is for investment of between £2.5 billion and £3 billion, but he emphasises that this is only a preliminary estimate. The main imponderable is the effect of

the crisis in Asian markets on investors' intentions.

Mr Evans said: "There is obviously the issue of the Far East, and frankly I don't know what the answer is. There is no evidence of investment stopping, but it's too early to say."

The fallout from the Far East could have two effects. It could actually boost further purchases, as "flight money" comes out of

markets that are seen as overvalued or dangerous into Britain, which has shown good returns in recent years. Alternatively Asian investors with severe liquidity problems at home could be forced to reduce overseas holdings.

The DTZ Debenham Thorpe figures, however, show a growing interest in European property from US buyers, which could go some way to making up any shortfall. Of

the £4.2 billion spent in the UK last year, £750 million came from America.

Most of the buying, about 70 per cent, took place in the capital, but there are signs that investors are looking further afield. "London remains the main focus but a number of investors once they begin to understand the UK are then looking at the regional markets," says Mr Evans.

If the investment total falls in 1998, this will be because other European property markets are seen as increasingly attractive as they emerge from recession, says Mr Evans. "What we're likely to see is some fall in the inflows, particularly because other property markets in, for example, mainland Europe are coming out of their cycle of despair and beginning to improve."

Weinberg gets troubled GAN Life for £316m

By PAUL DURMAN

GAN LIFE, the French-owned life insurer that has one of the worst records of clearing up the personal pensions mis-selling scandal, has been sold to the "vulture fund" operation headed by Sir Mark Weinberg. In a deal worth up to £316 million.

The deal threatens the jobs of most of GAN Life's 1,000 employees, about 900 of whom work at its headquarters in Harlow, Essex. GAN Life, which manages £2.8 billion on behalf of 355,000 savers, will close to new business. Its 800 self-employed salespeople will be offered a transfer to another, as yet unnamed, life insurer.

The sale of GAN Life to Sir Mark's Life Assurance Holding Corporation risks further delays in compensating the thousands of customers wrongly advised to take out personal pension plans in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The company's pension clear-up rate has persistently trailed the rest of the industry – less than a fifth of its 9,400 cases had been resolved by the end of November. It looks likely to miss the 90 per cent end-of-year target agreed with the regulatory authorities for its 1,700 high-priority cases.

John Wybrew, LAHC's chief executive, said: "We will of

course be looking to improve [compensation] performance." LAHC's Windsor Life subsidiary has also come in for criticism for its poor record on personal pensions. However, Mr Wybrew said this was a problem of the struggling companies that LAHC has acquired and Windsor Life was one of the few companies to have achieved its end-of-year clear-up target.

GAN Life's sale will ease France's intended privatisation of GAN, the state-controlled insurance group that owns 94.9 per cent of the company. GAN has steadily increased its holding since 1989, when it acquired a 51 per cent stake in a complex deal that valued the British life insurer, then called General

Portfolio, at £230 million. GAN, heavily loss-making in recent years, claims to have made a gain on the sale though that would seem to ignore financing costs. GAN Life has received a number of capital injections over the years, while its profits and sales have declined.

LAHC was set up three years ago to pick off companies exposed by the expected shake-out of the overpopulated life insurance market. By closing down marketing and combining small inefficient operations, LAHC hopes to produce a much more profitable business.

Although GAN Life is by far the largest of LAHC's acquisitions, it already administers £2.5 billion of assets with a staff of 350 – barely a third as many as GAN Life employs. LAHC has assured GAN Life it will retain a presence in Harlow and it will take two years to complete the integration of the new acquisition.

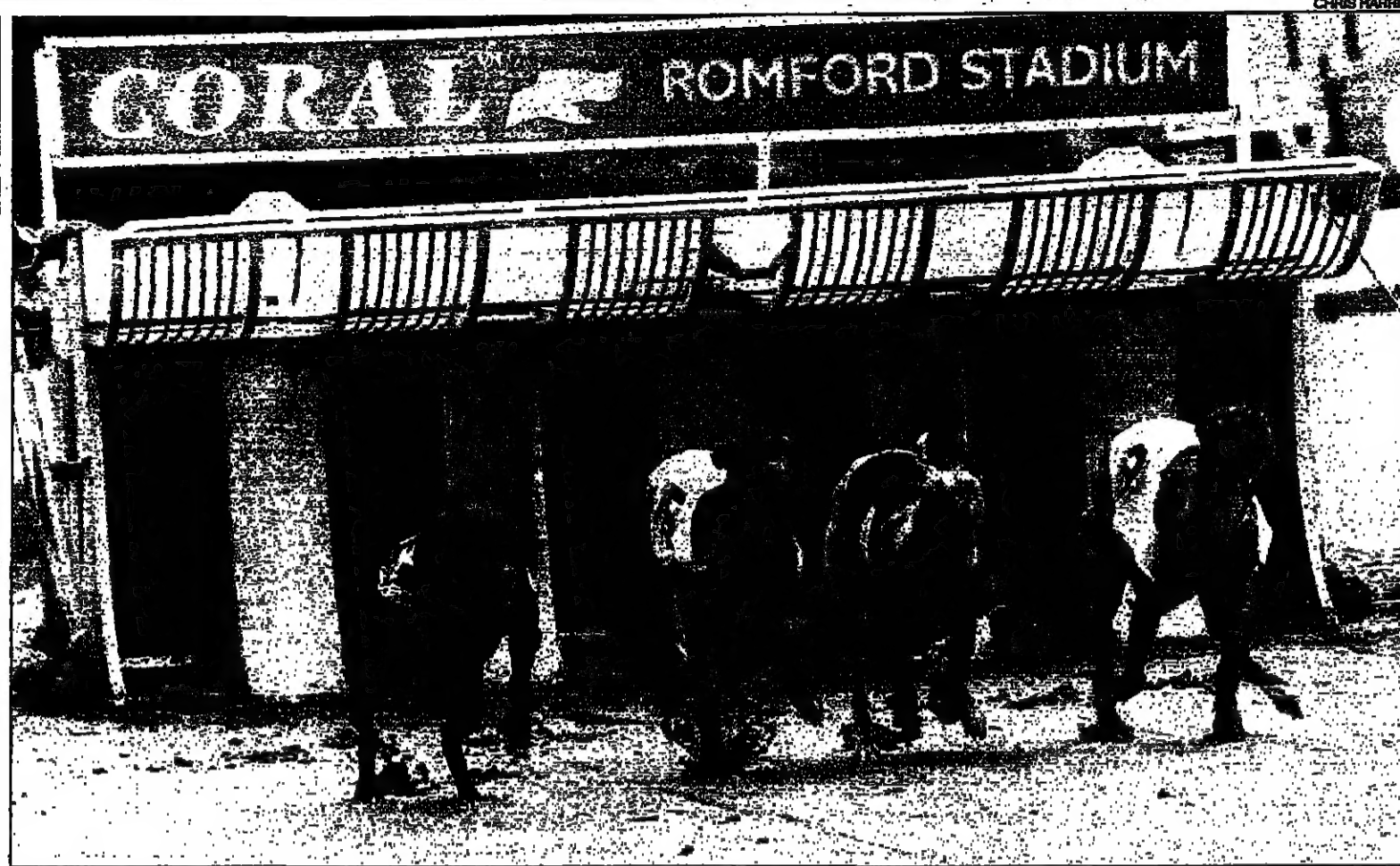
However, Mr Wybrew said: "In the long term, we would not expect to need another 350 to manage this."

LAHC will pay GAN an initial £253.5 million, with a further £46 million to follow depending on the persistence and performance of the acquired business. Under the takeover code, LAHC is required to make an offer, worth 28.5p a share, to the minority shareholders, principally past and present employees.

St James's Place Capital, which Sir Mark chairs, is one of LAHC's principal backers.



Weinberg: 'vulture fund'



Dog end: the Coral name, so much in evidence at the Coral-owned Romford Stadium yesterday, may disappear after the chain's sale to Ladbroke

Bets off for Coral after sale to Ladbroke

By DOMINIC WALSH

CORAL, the betting shop business founded by Joe Coral in 1926, looks set to disappear from the high street after Ladbroke Group confirmed yesterday that it is to buy the chain from Bass for £375.5 million in cash.

The leisure group, whose Ladbrokes Racing division is already the UK's biggest bookmaker with 1,912 shops, also revealed it had struck a deal with the Tote, the government-owned betting operator, to sell on 128 of Coral's 891 Coral shops for £41 million in order to circumvent competition problems.

Steve Devany, a spokesman

for Ladbroke, said the Office of Fair Trading had indicated that the acquisition would be allowed provided sufficient shops were sold to ensure the enlarged Ladbrokes portfolio did not break the quarter-mile radius rule introduced when William Hill merged with Mecca in 1989. William Hill was acquired by Nomura, the Japanese securities house, for £700 million last month.

In addition to Coral's 833 shops in the UK, Ladbroke is acquiring its telephone and on-course betting operations, 50 shops in the Republic of Ireland, eight in Jersey, two greyhound tracks in Romford

and Hove plus Bass's interests in various betting joint ventures, including a satellite TV service and the 49's numbers game. The inclusion of the 50 shops in Ireland is subject to clearance by the Irish competition authorities.

Mr Devany said the deal gave Ladbroke 700 shops in new locations. It planned to start converting them to the Ladbroke brand as soon as regulatory issues had been dealt with. In the last financial year, Coral made £33 million pre-tax profits from £893 million turnover, and has a £171 million book value.

The 128 shops that the Tote

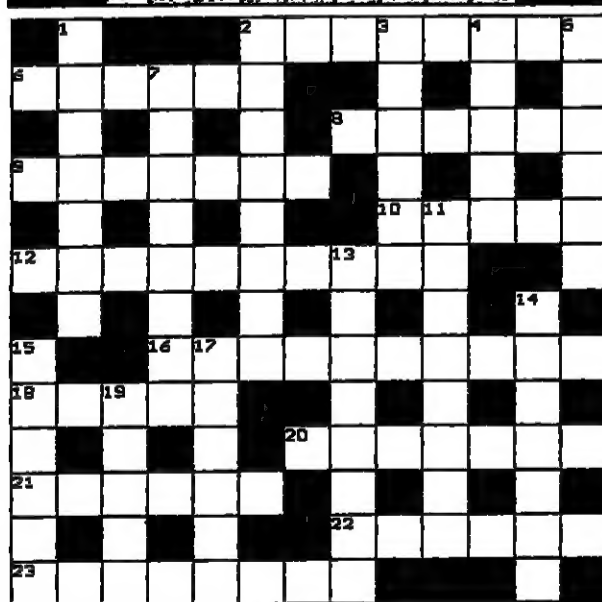
is buying made a profit of £5.5 million on sales of about £100 million. Peter Jones, chairman of the Tote, said the acquisition would be largely funded from bank borrowings.

The purchase will increase the Tote's off-course operation to 340 shops, and will take its total turnover to about £500 million. Mr Jones said he wanted to expand to 500 shops, but rejected suggestions that his expansionary ambitions made privatisation of the 70-year-old Tote more likely. "It's something for the Government to decide, but it doesn't seem to be on the agenda as things stand at the

moment." Although it operates under the auspices of the Home Office, the Tote gets no financial support from the Government.

The proceeds from the sale of Coral will allow Bass, which has owned Coral since 1981, to bolster its £1.5 billion war chest. A spokesman said: "We're still looking to make acquisitions in our three core sectors of hotels, leisure retailing and branded drinks. We're lean and raring to go." Economic woes in the Far East have prompted Bass to step up its search for a hotel company to boost its Holiday Inn chain in the Asia-Pacific region.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1292

ACROSS

- 2 Hypnotic (8)
- 6 Play false (snooker) shot (6)
- 8 Skilful, intelligent (6)
- 9 Selected (phone no.) (7)
- 10 Hairdresser's shop (5)
- 12 Ordinary party members (S.S.)
- 16 Gk. geometer; his Principle, screw (10)
- 18 Generous (5)
- 20 Using few words (7)
- 21 Light cavalryman (6)
- 22 Treat protectively: cook (egg) slowly (6)
- 23 George — Victorian poet/author (8)

DOWN

- 1 Close imitation (7)
- 3 Very rapid (rise) (8)
- 5 Interfere with (6)
- 4 Have great fun (5)
- 5 — de Bergerac (6)
- 7 Enormous (8)
- 11 Sun-orbiting rock (8)
- 13 One of small ruling clique (8)
- 14 Able to be read (7)
- 15 Make sense of: depth measure (6)
- 17 Look at: esteem (6)
- 19 Tricky problem (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1291

- ACROSS: 6 Propose 7 Hired 9 Gorse 10 Pungent 11 Butterflies 14 Infuriating 17 Accuser 19 Patio 21 Dolly 22 Sinuous
- DOWN: 1 Dour 2 Go-getter 3 Temple 4 Shin 5 Tree ring 6 Page 8 Detest 11 Bifocals 12 Flippant 13 Wizard 15 Afresh 16 Toss 18 Skye 20 Took

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE:
The Times Two Crosswords (Book 7: £2.99), The Times Crosswords (Book 20: £2.99), The Times Junior Crosswords (Book 3: £2.99) are available to Times readers for just 14p (p.p. £1.99) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop.
The Times Computer Crosswords on disk may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop.
To order, simply call 0800 134 439 for credit card orders or for further details. If paying by cheque/post, please make payable to News Books/Crosswords and send to: The Times Bookshops, PO Box 245, Falmouth, TQ11 2YX. Delivery on 14 days and subject to availability.

Barclaycard spend rises 7% to £1.8bn

By CHRIS AVRES

BARCLAYCARD, whose advertising slogan is "Don't put it off, put it on", said that customers spent £1.8 billion on its credit cards in December, with £1,600 a second going through the system at peak periods.

The UK's largest credit card company added that spending on its cards was about 7 per cent up on 1996. Withdrawals from Barclays Bank cash machines were up by 6.6 per cent.

A Barclays spokesman said: "It's actually been a pretty good run-up to Christmas, and certainly not as flat as some people have been saying. It's by no means a boom, but encouraging."

More than £1.2 billion was

withdrawn from Barclays cash machines in December. The busiest day was Friday, December 19, when £80 million was withdrawn from about 3,200 dispensers. Last year's record was £71 million.

This year also saw the most money dispensed from cash machines in a hour. A record was set between 11am and noon on Saturday, December 20, when £9.2 million was withdrawn, against last year's top hourly figure of £8.8 million. The busiest dispenser was at Heathrow Terminal 1.

Barclaycard telephone banking took 1,200 calls on Christmas Day, up from 190 the previous year.

BT venture wins £100m French deal

CEGETEL, a joint venture whose partners include British Telecom, has won a contract worth FF1 billion (£100 million) to set up a national Internet-based healthcare computer network in France.

The contract, awarded by the French Social Security Ministry, is for five years. The project will create an open data transmission network capable of serving the country's entire healthcare system.

Cegetel is a joint venture of BT, the French utility Cie Generale des Eaux, Mannesmann of Germany, and SBC Communications of the US. It was formed 15 months ago to capitalise on this year's deregulation of France's telecoms market.

Milken faces new charges after probation extension

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S Securities & Exchange Commission has obtained a court order to extend by one month the probation period of Michael Milken, the former junk bond king.

Mr Milken was due to end his time on probation yesterday. However, the US Attorney's office is preparing legal moves against Mr Milken, who was given a ten-year sentence for insider trading in 1990 and paid a \$1 billion (£600 million) fine but spent only two years in prison after agreeing never to work in the securities industry again.

New charges against Mr Milken are expected after the



Milken: acted as adviser

30-day extension. If he is found guilty of violating the probation agreement that prevents him from returning to Wall Street, he could be sent

back to prison. Mr Milken, 51, has recently acted as an adviser to Time Warner and MCI Communications, which was taken over by WorldCom for \$37 billion.

He has also worked with Ron Perelman, the corporate raider. Mr Milken is allowed to advise on strategy but cannot play any role in stock transactions such as mergers and acquisitions.

He may not work with "any broker, dealer, investment adviser, investment company or municipal securities dealer". Mr Milken's lawyers say the advisory posts did not violate the probation agreement.

He is also being accused of obstruction of justice in connection with the investigation.

Do you have an investment portfolio of £75,000 or more that is

looking for some old fashioned care and attention?

Burrage & Co. prides itself on giving a level of personal service that is so often difficult to find. At the same time clients benefit from the advantages of sophisticated information technology available to professional investment managers.

No two clients' requirements are identical, and this is reflected in the way the company places emphasis on the need to manage portfolios in a way that is designed to meet individuals' requirements and objectives.

If you would like to find out more about the discretionary fund management services provided by Burrage & Co., or would like to arrange a meeting for an exploratory discussion, please contact Ken Burrage or Susan Bentley.

BURRAGE
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

117 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 5AL

Tel: 0171 480 7216 Fax: 0171 702 3020 e-mail: ken.burrage@kln.co.uk
BURRAGE & CO. LIMITED IS PART OF THE KILN GROUP AND IS REGULATED BY DMO